



Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art

FOFA UPDATE

Vol. I # 2, May 2008

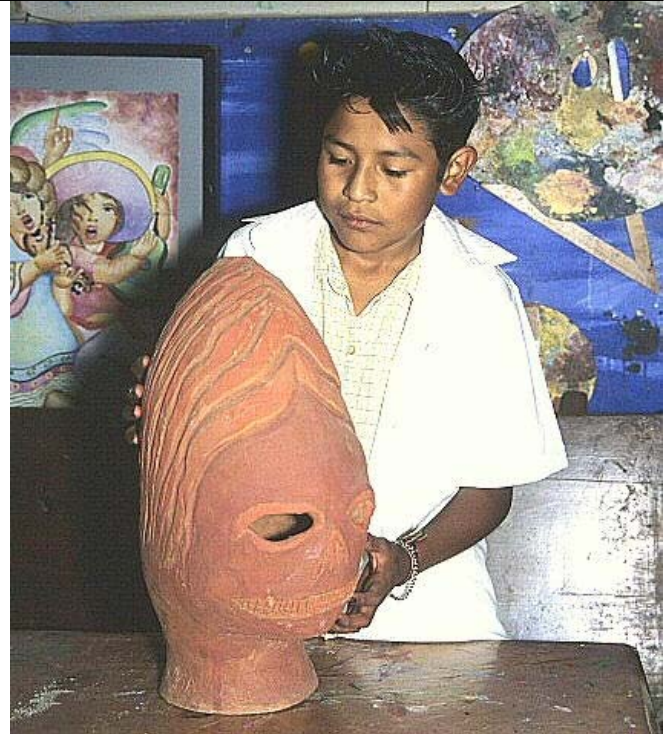
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Groundbreaking Initiative to Preserve Oaxacan Folk Art Traditions: Young People Are Key

A select group of Oaxaca's most promising young folk *artesanos* will have an unparalleled opportunity to exhibit their work in Mexico and the United States due to the generous support from over two hundred enthusiastic donors, plus many of hours of volunteer expertise and labor, provided by members of the Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art (FOFA). FOFA, a non-profit organization, was founded in 2007 because Oaxaca's artistic traditions are seriously endangered. The loss of these traditions would be irreparable, and could occur in little more than a generation. FOFA is dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Oaxaca's cherished heritage by helping to sustain local artists and by encouraging young artists, who are most vulnerable to economic pressures, embrace and further develop these arts.

Call for Works by Young Artists!

FOFA's inaugural project, a juried art competition by young artists, is officially underway! Posters and flyers in pueblo community centers and schools, and radio spots throughout Oaxaca State invite artists ages 15 to 25 working in ceramics, woodcarving and weaving to submit their exhibition entries to the State Museum of Oaxacan Folk Art (Museo Estatal de Arte Popular Oaxaca, MEAPO), located about 20 minutes south of Oaxaca City in the pueblo of San Bartolo Coyotepec. (See photo, next page, of one of MEAPO's galleries.)



Young Oaxacan Ceramicist

Renowned Ceramicist Plays Leading Role

FOFA is working closely with Carlomagno Pedro Martínez, the Director of the State Museum of Popular Art (MEAPO) and an internationally-known ceramicist. Carlomagno and many members of his family are famous for their remarkable black ceramic figures.



Arden Rothstein, FOFA's President, and Carlomagno Pedro Martínez at a planning meeting at MEAPO in August, 2007



Carlomagno working in his studio



Come see the work of winning young artists (together with some senior “masters”) at the MEAPO gallery for three months starting around Mexico’s Day of the Dead festival in October 2008!

Great Mezcal, Great Botanas and Great Art

FOFA’s campaign to fundraise for the exhibition catalogue got off to a great start on April 30th when Arden Rothstein, FOFA’s President and co-author (with her daughter Anya) of *Mexican Folk Art from Oaxacan Artist Families*, opened her home in New York City for a private art viewing. Arden’s life-long affiliation with Oaxaca and immersion in the folk art scene has given her the opportunity to buy unique and remarkable pieces. She gave an informal and anecdotal “tour” of her collection. We enjoyed outstanding mezcal (donated by Scorpion Mezcal, S.A. & Caballeros Inc.) and delicious botanas (donated and catered by Paladar Restaurant).

Many Helping Hands

A number of hardworking FOFA board members and innumerable additional volunteers have contributed many hours planning and running our three benefit events and developing the Oaxaca and New York exhibitions. Many, many thanks (in alphabetical order) to Board Members Joyce Grossbard, Deborah Huntington, Ernest Kafka, Marissa Sanchez and Cynthia Weill, and to volunteers Felix Cortés, Elizabeth Ferrer, Kate Mellina, Michael Miller, Amy Mulvihill, Deborah Paley, Susan Pasternak, Shennan Aibel-Weiss and Tomás Ybarra-Frausto. We can always use more help if you’d like to join us! Call 718-859-1515 or email info@fofa.us.

Learn more about us at www.fofa.us

Be an Angel and Make a Tax-Deductible Contribution

Send your check made out to
“Friends of Oaxacan Folk Art” to:
FOFA, 275 Central Park West, 1C, New York, NY 10024

Artistic Catalogue Planned

FOFA will prepare a high-quality, bilingual catalogue to recognize and encourage the talented winning young artists. It will include a profile of each artist, photographs of his or her art, and the artist’s contact information for collectors and potential buyers. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 for this project. We will recognize all \$500-and-up donors with a prominent listing in the catalogue.

International Panel to Select Winners

A renowned panel of Mexican, British and U.S. folk art experts assembled by FOFA, in consultation with the director of MEAPO, will select the winning pieces on July 7, 2008. The exhibit will open with a fiesta on October 25 – in time for Day of the Dead – and will also include works of senior Oaxacan folk art masters. Some part of this exhibition, along with some of the *artesanos*, will come to New York in the spring of 2009.

Carlomagno Designs Special Course for Winners

Winners will be enrolled in a special course of study at the Taller Rufino Tamayo in the city of Oaxaca. Taller alumnus Carlomagno and the Taller’s director are designing a special three-month course of study. Students will take courses in their area of production and also in other artistic media, including engraving, painting, ceramics and wood carving. Exposure to these other art forms will help young artisans to refine their techniques. Tuition, materials and transportation fees will be provided to the winners.



Wood-Carved Angel by Epifanio Fuentes, San Martín Tilcajete