

## MEXICO CITY MEXICO CITY MEXICO CITY

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### Upcoming in April

#### Volume Seven, Number Two 1996

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¡VIVA LA MEXICO CITY! Alive with memories of Frida Kahlo, Leon Trotsky and Diego Rivera; with monumental murals by Rivera, Siquieros and Orozco in almost every major public building; with intriguing ruins of the ancient Aztec civilization; with spectacular Moorish and Baroque colonial buildings; with stimulating modern and contemporary architecture by Ricardo Legorreta, Luis Barragán and Pedro Ramírez Vazquez; with vibrant galleries, museums and contemporary alternative spaces; with sumptuous tastes and smells of fine Mexican cuisine —getting to know Mexico City requires patience, determination and a lot of inquisitiveness. Your reward will be the discovery of a city with a history as rich as that of any Mayan ruin, and a contemporary art scene as exciting as any found in cosmopolitan cities around the world.

To savor the essence of the art scene in Mexico City, you must plan ahead. Before you leave, obtain a copy of Hayden Herrera's biography of Frida Kahlo and read it on the airplane. Also, Abrams has just published a replica of Frida Kahlo's own diary of her most private thoughts and images, which is a must for any art library. Arrange for a driver — we recommend Alfonso Ocegüera, 52-5-511-66-12 or 52-5-671-27-39 — to meet you at the airport and transport you throughout the city during your stay. He knows the museums, galleries, and architecture, and, more importantly, he knows his way around the city and will save you valuable time. You must have *La guía ARTES DE MEXICO*, a guide to all the art museums, galleries and art spaces in Mexico. This can be purchased at any of the museums or galleries in Mexico City (we also found it at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana) or call ahead to Artes de México, 52-5-4036, for information. Equip yourself with the *Mexico Access* guide and plan your itinerary district by district — Mexico City is comprised of many districts, or neighborhoods, and each one is unique — to include as many places, sights, and events as possible in each individual area before moving on. For an artful experience, you should concentrate on the Centro Histórico, Parque Chapultepec, Colonia Roma, Zona Rosa, Polanco, and, located in the southern part of the city, San Ángel, Coyoacán and Xochimilco.

*ARTexpress* started its tour with a visit to the CENTRO HISTÓRICO. First on our agenda— and no better place to be immersed than in the heart of Mexico City — was the **Zócalo**, the vast main square in the center of downtown that has been the hub of life since the Aztecs founded their capital here in 1325. This is the largest square in the Americas, with each side measuring 792 feet. Every morning and evening the Mexican flag is raised in the middle of the square accompanied by a full

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military salute and the blast of horns and drums. The **Palacio Nacional**, begun in 1692 and presently housing the offices of the president, is located adjacent to the Zócalo and is best known as the site of the famous **Diego Rivera Murals**, one depicting the 1910 Revolution against the dictatorship of Porfirio Díaz, and a series of panels in the outer hallways illustrating the Aztec way of life before the Spanish conquest. Also adjacent to the Zócalo is Mexico City's main and largest cathedral, which took 240 years (1573-1813) to complete. Like those of most colonial buildings in Mexico City, the church's walls lean in all directions. This is because the city was built on the ruins of the Aztec city, which, in turn was built on a swamp. The fabulous gilded *Retablo de los Reyes*, carved by the Seville artist Jerónimo de Balbas between 1771 and 1725, set the carving style which became the hallmark of colonial architecture. Just behind the Main Square and next to the Palacio Nacional is the **Museo de Culturas**, with art exhibits from around the world and a wonderful 1938 Rufino Tamayo mural in its entrance hall. In complete contrast to the Museo de Culturas is the contemporary alternative space **EX'Teresa**, housed in an old convent next to the Palacio Nacional. The exhibits at EX'Teresa are government sponsored, and are on the cutting edge of the avant-garde art scene. Whether or not there is an exhibition in progress, the space itself is worth a visit. The crooked walls of the old convent undulate in splendid contrast to the contemporary architecture of the new exhibition and office spaces. EX'Teresa's curator, Verena Grimm, can direct you to other alternative and installation spaces throughout Mexico City, which seem to be constantly opening and closing. As you leave EX'Teresa, peek at the Aztec ruins, where the very popular **Museo del Templo Mayor**, opened in 1987, is devoted to the newly excavated Aztec religious structure. Also in the Centro Histórico and within walking distance of the Zócalo are the **Museo Nacional de Arte** with its collection of Mexican art housed in an Italian-influenced palace; **Museo Franz Mayer**, an elegant 16th-century mansion featuring the private collection (Mexican decorative arts from the 16th-19th-century) of Franz Mayer; and the **Museo Nacional de la Estampa**, a printmaking museum set in a courtyard between two churches that sink visibly deeper into the subsoil every year. Grab a bite at the **Café Tacuba** and continue to explore the area near the Alameda, a popular park for a Sunday stroll and also the location of the **Diego Rivera Mural Museum**, built in honor of his huge mural, *A Sunday Afternoon in the Alameda*. Don't miss the **Centro De La Imagen**, a new gallery of photographic and video arts sited in an old tobacco factory, which is a short walk from the Alameda.

## Focus Mexico City

### HOTELS

**Four Seasons Hotel**, (Chapultepec area), Paseo de la Reforma 500 (between Burdeos and Leija), Tel. 52-5-230-1818. This is the number one choice of ARTexpress for luxury. Although fairly new, with a Spanish Colonial facade, it looks like it's always been a part of historic Mexico City.

**Camino Real**, (Chapultepec area), Mariano Escobedo 700 (at Victor Hugo), Tel. 52-5-203-2121. Designed by Ricardo Legoretta, one of Mexico's top architects, this exciting contemporary hotel includes huge, open lobbies in pinks, purples and yellows making wonderful settings for a Rufino Tamayo mural and a giant Calder stabile. Although somewhat run-down on our recent visit, the location is very good.

**Hotel De Cortés**, (Centro Histórico), Ave. Hildago 85 (at Paseo de la Reforma), Tel. 52-5-518-2181. Occupying an 18th-century building that once served as a shelter and hospice for friars, this pleasant hotel is set around a charming Colonial-style patio. Although the rooms are a bit shabby, it is the only small, reasonable hotel that truly gives the feel of old Mexico.

**Maria Isabella Sheraton**, Paseo de la Reforma 325 (at Florencia), Tel. 52-5-207-3933. Situated on the north side of Reforma next to the US Embassy near the Zona Rosa, this deluxe hotel undoubtedly has the best view of El Monumento a la Independencia "El Angel."

**Hotel Maria Cristina**, (Col. Cuauhtemoc) Rio Lerma No. 31, Tel. 52-5-566-96-88. A small, inexpensive hotel located at the edge of the Polanco area.

### RESTAURANTS

**Cicero-Centenario**, (Centro Histórico), República de Cuba 79, Tel. 52-5-521-2934. Just the spot for a festive feast; lots of atmosphere, including mariachis, plus this restaurant has a reputation for excellent food.

**Café de Tacuba**, (Centro Histórico), Calle Tacuba 28 (at Bolívar), Tel. 52-5-518-4950. Housed in an old convent, the Tacuba gives you the feel of old Mexico with its walls covered by lovely Puebla-tile murals and paintings. The menu features Mexican food and we recommend it primarily for lunch.

**Los Girasoles**, (Centro Histórico), Plaza Manuel Tolsá on Calle Tacuba, Tel. 52-5-510 0630. This bright Colonial-style building is hung with flags and flower boxes faces a spacious square. Inside, the restaurant blazes with fauve color and expressions of a sunflower theme. The food, a cooperative effort of the city's notable chefs, is nouvelle Mexican.

**Isadora**, (Col. Polanco), Moliere 50, Tel. 52-5-280-5586. Drawings of the extraordinary Isadora Duncan dramatize the décor in this Art Deco townhouse where new-wave Mexican cooking is the fare.

**Estoril**, (Col. Polanco), Alejandro Dumas 24, Tel. 52-5-280-9828. Located on the second floor of a former private residence, this small, elegant restaurant serves excellent international cuisine.

**Hacienda de los Morales**, (Col. Polanco), Ave. Vázquez de Mella 525, Tel. 52-5-281-4703. A restored 17th-century hacienda that takes its name from the

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Spanish for mulberry tree, this restaurant is graced by extensive gardens and courtyards. The Hacienda caters to the old elite and is noted for an unblemished reputation in the culinary arts. A must!

**La Galvia**, (Col. Polanco), Campos Elíseos 247, Tel. 52-5-281-0560. A very popular spot, La Galvia is noted for high quality Mexican food ranging from soup of baby cactus and pinto beans to main courses of chicken in phyllo.

**Champs-Élysées**, (Zona Rosa), Paseo de la Reforma 316, Tel. 52-5-525-7259. Reserve a table overlooking the Reforma and enjoy French cuisine with a Mexican touch. Mexico's politicians and movers and shakers eat here regularly.

**Bellinghausen**, (Zona Rosa), Londres 95, Tel. 52-5-525-8738. A very Spanish restaurant with German specialties, especially recommended for lunch when business people and tourists make the most of the garden patio.

**La Fonda del Refugio**, (Zona Rosa), Liverpool 166, Tel. 52-5-207-2732. La Fonda is noted for serving the finest traditional Mexican food in the city. Be sure to tour the premises to see the intricate hand-painted tiles, hand-embroidered tablecloths and typical pottery.

**San Ángel Inn**, (San Ángel), Diego Rivera 50 (at Altavista), Tel. 52-5-616-1527. This is one of the most beautiful and famous restaurants in Mexico City. A former hacienda, it once served as a meeting place for Pancho Villa and Emiliano Zapata; excellent mixture of French, continental and Mexican cuisines.

**La Taberna del León**, (San Ángel), Altamirano 46, Plaza Loreto Tel. 52-5-616-3951 A favorite of *ARTexpress*, La Taberna is owned and run by the Patino family. This charming restaurant serves the freshest nouvelle Mexican cuisine.

**La Mansión**, (Col. del Parque) Insurgentes sur 778, Tel. 52-5-557-6730 or (Zona Rosa) Hamburgo 77, esq. Niza, Tel. 52-5-514-3425. Serves a variety of grilled meat dishes in a formal setting.

**Círculo del Sureste**, (Col. Juárez), Lucerna 12, Tel. 52-5-546-2972. Recommended for typical Yucatan cuisine.

**Hostería de Santo Domingo**, (Centro Histórico), Belisario Domínguez 72, Tel. 52-5-526-5276. Authentic Mexican cuisine.

**Fonda de Santa Clara**, (Col. Polanco), Homero 1910, Tel. 52-5-557-6144. Very popular for Mexican food. Reservations recommended.

## MUSEUMS

**Centro Cultural Arte Contemporáneo**, Campos Elíseos y Jorge Elliot, (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-282-0355 or 281-1550. Mexican and international contemporary art. Great museum store.

**Centro de la Imagen**, Plaza de la Ciudadela 2, (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-709-6058. The Center for Photography is housed in a building 22 that was constructed in the 18th century as the first tobacco factory of New Spain. There are four or five temporary exhibitions a year.

**Museo de Arte Carrillo Gil**, Ave. Revolución 1608, (San Ángel), Tel. 52-5-550-6289. Houses the

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Before you leave the Centro Histórico, be sure to book a night at the **Palacio Nacional de Bellas Artes**, a huge theater complex that took thirty years to build, changing from Art Nouveau to Art Deco in the process, for the **Ballet Folklórico**, if only to see the fabulous Art Nouveau Tiffany glass stage curtain designed by Gerardo Murillo ("Dr. Alt"). Our favorite dinner spot in the Centro Histórico is **Los Girasoles**, located in the Plaza Manuel Tolsá on Calle Tacuba. Enjoy nouvelle cuisine in a fauve atmosphere.

The PARQUE CHAPULTEPEC is home to some of Mexico City's finest museums, including the **Museo de Arte Moderno**, with an extensive collection of 20th-century Mexican art on permanent display; the **Museo Rufino Tamayo**, where you will see paintings by Tamayo, plus the artist's collection of international modern art, as well as innovative, international changing exhibitions (the architecture by Teodore González de León and Abraham Zabludovsky is worth the visit); and the elegant **Museo Nacional de Antropología**, designed by architect Pedro Ramírez Vasquez. No visit to Mexico City is complete without a visit to the Museo Nacional de Antropología, where the Pre-Columbian collection is among the world's most splendid (and be sure to save time for the bookstore). All are within walking distance of each other, and you should plan to spend a whole morning visiting all three. A short drive from the park, in San Miguel Chapultepec, is **Galería de Arte Mexicano**, our favorite for both its 60-year history of representing the best Mexican artists, and for the gracious welcome given by its director, Alejandra de Yturbe. Also, if you're not staying at the nearby **El Camino Real Hotel**, be sure to stop by to see architect Ricardo Legorreta's exciting, colorful spaces, and the large lobby mural by Rufino Tamayo.

Just north of Chapultepec, head to **Isadora's** for lunch before exploring the galleries in the nearby POLANCO district. The Polanco area is quite upscale, and its familiar boutiques may remind you of Rodeo Drive in Beverly Hills. Interspersed with Cartier, Vuitton, and Dior are galleries representing some of Mexico's top contemporary artists, including **Galería Juan Martín**, **Galería Lopez Quiroga**, and **Galería Misrachi**. The main attraction in Polanco is the **Centro Cultural Arte Contemporáneo**, sponsored privately by Mexico's Televisa Corporation and showing Televisa's vast collections of international contemporary art, Latin American photography, and Pre-Columbian artifacts. The Centro Cultural also hosts many interesting changing exhibitions. For an elegant ending to your day plan to dine at the beautiful **Hacienda de los Morales** in the Polanco area.

Other districts near Parque Chapultepec include

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COLONIA ROMA, where you will find both **Galeria OMR** and **Galeria Nina Menocal**, and the ZONA ROSA, location of the venerable **Galeria Arvil**, which, since its founding in 1969, has exhibited paintings by such Mexican masters as Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and Rufino Tamayo.

Despite the crowds, Saturday is the best day to head south to SAN ÁNGEL, COYOACÁN and XOCHIMILCO. Start in the picturesque colonial village of San Ángel at the **Bazar del Sábado** — the best place to buy folk art in Mexico City and only open Saturdays. In the Plaza San Jacinto next to the Bazar Sábado building are **Tianguis** and **El Jardín del Arte**, open-air arts and crafts markets which mix folk art treasures among the cheap souvenirs. Also in the immediate neighborhood are several wonderful antique stores where Spanish colonial furniture, carved santos, and, if you're lucky, retablos or devotional paintings are prized discoveries. Before visiting the nearby **Museo Carrillo Gil** and **Diego Rivera Studio**, fortify yourself with a delicious lunch at **Taberna de León**, our favorite restaurant in Mexico City. From San Ángel, it is a short drive to Coyoacán (named for the forest which is now a park in the center of the district), where you'll be charmed by **La Casa Azul** — Frida Kahlo's Blue House and now the **Museo Frida Kahlo**. A few blocks away is the **Museo León Trotsky** house (he and Frida had an affair during his stay in Mexico City), a biographical museum with a small gallery and theater for cultural events. The **Museo Anahuacalli**, designed by Diego Rivera in 1957 to house his extensive collection of Pre-Columbian artifacts, is also a must in this area. Before leaving Coyoacán, stroll through the **Plaza Hidalgo** and shop for treasures on **Ave Francisco Sosa**, graced by some of the most charming examples of Spanish colonial homes. Save time to head further south to Xochimilco, as the **Museo Dolores Olmedo Patiño** is a must-see. In 1994, Dolores Olmedo, now in her 90s, donated her extensive collection of paintings by Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, her Mexican folk art, and the beautiful hacienda style home and gardens, which enhance this fabulous collection. This is where you will see some of the best Rivera and Kahlo paintings in the city. The famous **Floating Gardens** of Xochimilco are nearby and definitely worth a visit if there is time. Meanwhile, don't even think of leaving the southern side of the city until you have dined at the famous **San Ángel Inn**, the enchanting hacienda located next to Diego Rivera's studio.

In fact, there is never enough time, it seems, to savor the myriad, intensely colorful worlds that, together, make up this most continental of North American capitals. From the dense, mysterious images of the Pre-Columbian civilization to the

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collection assembled by Dr. Álgar Carrillo Gil (1899-1974) over the course of his lifetime. Includes Orozco, Rivera, and Siqueiros.

**Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Internacional Rufino Tamayo**, Paseo de la Reforma y Gandhi, Parque Chapultepec, (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-286-5889. Houses the collection of Rufino and Olga Tamayo in a stunning multi-leveled, modular construction by architects Teodoro González de León and Abraham Zabludovsky.

**Museo de Arte Moderno**, Paseo de la Reforma y Gandhi, Parque Chapultepec, (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-553-6233. Home to an excellent collection dedicated to Mexican art, as well as temporary exhibitions.

**Museo Estudio Diego Rivera**, Diego Rivera 2, (San Ángel), Tel. 52-5-550-1189. Rivera's studio designed by architect Juan O'Gorman.

**Museo Franz Mayer**, Ave. Hidalgo 45, Plaza de la Santa Veracruz, (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-518-2266. Franz Mayer's renowned collection of decorative arts displayed in a remarkable 17th-century building.

**Museo de Mural Diego Rivera**, Plaza Solidaridad, (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-512-0754. Houses Rivera's celebrated mural *Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda*.

**Museo Nacional de Antropología**, Paseo de la Reforma y Gandhi, Parque Chapultepec, (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-553-6266. A monumental building designed by Pedro Ramírez Vázquez complements the largest collection of Mexico's pre-Hispanic past. Best bookstore for books on pre-Hispanic history, art and architecture.

**Museo Nacional de Historia**, Castillo de Chapultepec, 1A Sección, Parque Chapultepec, Tel. 52-5-286-0700. Known as Chapultepec Castle, the museum offers a panorama of Mexican history.

**Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes**, Ave. Juárez y Ave. Hidalgo 1, (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-709-3111. Known simply as the Bellas Artes, this is a huge theater complex known for its Art Nouveau and Art Deco designs. The main curtain of the National Theater is comprised of a metal and opalescent crystal panel made by Tiffany and well worth seeing.

**Museo Nacional de la Estampa**, Ave. Hidalgo 39, Plaza de la Santa Veracruz (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-510-4905. The national graphic arts museum.

**Museo Universitario del Chopo**, Enrique González Martínez 10, (Santa María la Ribera), Tel. 52-5-546-5484. This fabulous building (ca.1902) of iron and German glass is the site of avant-garde installations and performance art.

**Dolores Olmedo Patiño Museum**, Ave. Mexico 5843, (La Noria Xochimilco), Tel. 52-5-555-1016. A beautiful hacienda with the world's largest collection of the works of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo.

**Museo Frida Kahlo**, Londres 242, (Coyoacán), Tel. 52-5-554-5999. The cornflower-blue house where Frida was born and lived is filled with memorabilia of her life.

**Museo Leon Trotsky**, Río Churubusco 410, (Coyoacán). Tel. 52-5-658-8732. Trotsky's house, complete with gun turrets, high walls, thick metal-plated doors, and shuttered windows, where the exiled

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Communist spent the last years of his life.

**EX'Teresa**, ex-templo de Santa Teresa la Antigua, (Centro Histórico), Tel. 52-5-522-2721. An exciting alternative space located in one of the most important colonial monuments of the architectural patrimony of Mexico.

## GALLERIES

**Galería de Arte Mexicano**, Gob. Rafael Rebollar 43, (Col. Chapultepec), Tel. 52-5-273-1261. Founded in 1935, this gallery is one of the most prestigious in Mexico and has been instrumental in the rise of many artistic movements.

**Galería Juan Martín**, Charles Dickens 33-B, (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-280-0277. Started in 1961 with style called Ruptura. The gallery features foreign artists and exhibits photography.

**Galería Nina Menocal**, Zacatecas 93, (Col. Roma), Tel. 52-5-564-7443. Focuses on Cuban artists and now represents Mexican, Colombian and Argentine artists as well.

**Galería OMR**, Plaza Río de Janeiro 54, (Col. Roma), Tel. 52-5-207-1080. Established in 1983, the gallery is identified with younger artists who have played an important role in shaping contemporary art in Mexico.

**Galería López Quiroga**, Masarik 379 esq. Séneca (Col. Polanco), Tel. 52-5-280-1247. Contemporary art.

## ARCHITECTURE ADDRESSES

**Casa-Museo Luis Barragán**, Francisco Ramírez 14, (Tacubaya), Tel. 52-5-515-4908. The residence of renowned architect Luis Barragán, built in 1947, remains one of the most important architectural works in Mexico. Since his death—open to the public.

**Centro de Cultura Casa Lamm**, Álvaro Obregón 99, (Col. Roma), Tel. 52-5-514-4899. A beautiful house from the Porfirio Díaz era named after its architect Lewis Lamm, the center is now devoted to the study and advancement of the arts.

## SHOPPING

**Fonart**, (Centro Histórico), Av. Juárez 89. For arts and crafts: also located in various parts of the city.

**Mercado de la Lagunilla**, (Centro Histórico), Eje 1 Norte Ignacio Rayón. Great for antiques; open only on Sunday.

**Tané**, (Col. Polanco), Edgar Allan Poe esq. Presidente Masaryk. Jewelry and silversmithing.

**Bazar del Sábado**, (San Ángel), Plaza San Jacinto. A must for fun and the real flavor of a famous Mexican bazaar; open only on Saturday.

**Las Artesanías**, (Col. Polanco), Oscar Wilde 29, Tel. 52-2-280-9515. In this store you can find selected crafts from different parts of Mexico.

**Victor Artes Populares Mexicanos**, Madero 10, Room 305, Tel. 52-5-512-1263. On the 3rd floor of an office building, Victor sells new and antique masks, silver jewelry, wood carvings, cut-paper decorations, and papier maché animals at unbelievable prices.

## The Artworld Selects

**Alejandra de Yturbe**, director of the prestigious 60-year-old Galería de Arte Mexicano, touts **Champs d'Elysées**, her favorite French restaurant, but feels that **La Taberna de León** in the San Ángel district is the best restaurant in Mexico City. Other favorites include **Estoril**, in the Polanco district, for Mexican and Spanish food, **Bellinghausen** in the Zona Rosa for fish, and, for great authentic Mexican food, **La Fonda del Refugio**. For her out-of-town guests she recommends the new **Four Seasons Hotel**, which (already thronged with the power-suited elite) offers individual English-language tours of the archeological sites and little known museums. **Verena Grimm**, curator of EX'Teresa, the wonderful Center for Alternative Art, recommends **Cicero-Centenario** in the Centro Histórico for a festive atmosphere and feast. **Reese Shaw**, director of the California Center for the Arts Museum in Escondido, stays at the modest **Hotel María Cristina** while researching exhibitions in Mexico City. Shaw says, "It is clean, with a good restaurant for breakfast, and well located at the edge of the Polanco." **Lea Remba** of the Los Angeles Remba Gallery is a native of Mexico City and has a long list of favorite restaurants as well as shopping and museum ideas. For an elegant dinner she suggests either the **San Ángel Inn** or **Hacienda de los Morales**; for authentic Mexican food try **Hostería de Santo Domingo**, **Café Tacuba**, **Fonda Santa Clara**, or **Los Guajolotes**. For nouvelle Mexican food she recommends **Villa María**; in addition she likes **Café Opera**, a bar located downtown, for nice ambience; **Círculo del Sureste**, a spot for informal food from Yucatan; and **La Mansion** for grilled food in a formal setting (can be found in different locations). **El Charco de la Rana** also has various locations and serves great tacos in an informal atmosphere; **Sangorn's Casa de los Azulejos** near Alameda Park, and in various locations throughout the city, is a coffee shop with authentic Mexican food and a store that sells arts and crafts, books, records, etc. When shopping for arts and crafts, Lea recommends visiting **Mercado de Artesanías** in the Zona Rosa, **Bazar del Sábado** in San Ángel — a must — and **Fonart** in various locations throughout the city. **Presidente Masarik** has full boutiques and good restaurants, and for your shopping list remember **Tané Silversmith**.

# ART AROUND THE WORLD

## News

Cologne may host the largest contemporary art fair, and Basel is noted for a tight reign on quality, but, for a lively, scrappy, never-dull enterprise, try **Madrid's** ARCO 96. Each year a particular country is the honored guest and this year it is Germany that is being featured. In addition, special programs will include "Major Collectors at ARCO"—the 8th International Contemporary Art Forum. The dates are February 8-13; the location, Parque Ferial Juan Carlos 1, Madrid. *España Cultural*, the newsletter of **Valesa Cultural**, presided over by knowledgeable tour operators **Barbara Fulford** and **Sofia Barroso**, reminds us that the fair is just one of many attractions. 1996 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of **Francisco de Goya** and has been named "The Year of Goya in Spain." The **Prado** will display Goya masterpieces from the end of March through June, followed by *Drawings by Goya* in July and August. In September, the **Reina Sofía** takes over with *Goya and Picasso: The Artistic Essence of Modern Spain*. The list is endless with Goya celebrations throughout Madrid and in Toledo, Valencia, Cádiz, Barcelona, Seville, and more.

Other art news from Spain includes the re-opening of the **Catalan Art Museum** in **Barcelona**, renovated by Italian architect **Gae Aulenti**, and the announcement that nine Spanish artists, including **Xavier Mariscal** who designed the Cobi character for Barcelona, will create public art works for the Atlanta Olympics in a reciprocal program that began with such American artists as **Roy Lichtenstein**, **Richard Serra**, **Ellsworth Kelly**, **Bryan Hunt** and **Claes Oldenburg** creating large-scale works for Barcelona 92. A number of the artists are already at work in sculptor **Rick Batten's** studio at the University of Alabama, Birmingham.

Beginning with a gala benefit opening January 25, **Artfair Seattle 96** will celebrate its fifth anniversary through January 28 at the Westin Hotel. It is now the only major contemporary fair on the West Coast (including traveling hotel fairs such as the Gramercy), and boasts the participation of major galleries, including **John Berggruen**, San Francisco; **Diane Farris**, Vancouver; **Marlborough**, New York; **Pace Prints**, New York; **Galerie 1900-2000**, Paris, and, of course, a substantial number of Seattle's own.

On a more traditional note, visitors to **New York's 42nd Annual Winter Antiques Show** at the Seventh Regiment Armory on Park Avenue (January 19-28) will not only be wowed by the best offerings of 69 art and antiques dealers, they'll also get a first-hand look at the top seats of prominent New Yorkers (plus others such as honorary chairman **Bill**

## Great Addresses

### IN MADRID

Two tapas bars that are favorites with discerning Madrileños:

**El Aguilucho**, Hermosilla 18 (at the corner of Claudio Coello), Tel. (91) 575-60-40. Just the place for a shellfish attack—try mussels, crabs, oysters, sea snails, clams . . .

**Casa Rafa**, Narvaez 68, Tel. (91) 573-82-98. Grilled shrimp and lobster bring even the jaded to stand in line.

**Julián de Tolosa**, Calle Cava Baja 18, Tel. (91) 365-82-10. On the same street as the venerable Casa Lucio, this newer restaurant serves traditional Basque cuisine in pleasant surroundings just right for this timeless comfort food.

### IN SEATTLE

You're in luck if you're visiting Artfair Seattle—or anytime between January 1—March 31! Nineteen downtown hotels are offering special rates, plus promotional coupon books for participating guests that feature dining, shopping, and attractions discounts. For example, the special rate at the Westin Seattle is \$105. Call Seattle Super Saver for a complete list of bargains: (800) 535-7071.

Seattle Art Museum, 100 University Street, Tel. 206/585-3249. While you're in town, don't miss *Willem de Kooning In Seattle*—seldom-seen-in-public pictures by the master.

### IN NEW YORK

**Takashimaya**, Fifth Avenue. The place where art is confused with shopping. Nowhere are displays more beautiful, flowers more creative, objects more carefully chosen; seven floors of goodies that more than delight the eye (the 8th floor is reserved for shipping presents to Japan!).

**JoJo**, 160 East 64th Street, Tel. 212/223-5656. If Jean-Georges Vongerichten's Vong is a bit too stage-crafty for you, try his East Side townhouse graced by creative dishes (squash soup is divine), plus a neighborhood crowd that is jolly but noisy. Lunch upstairs overlooking the street is, however, lovely and peaceful.

**The Lobster Club**, 24 East 80th Street, Tel. 212/249-6500. Anne Rosenzweig, of Arcadia fame, says the hallmark of her new restaurant is "country food." Don't miss "Mom's meatloaf."

**Calvin Klein**, 654 Madison Avenue. The Calvin vision—all 20,000 square feet of it; see sumptuously minimal decor, linens, home furnishing, et al. Many of the Klein-design objects are, in fact, quite beautiful.

# ART AROUND THE WORLD

## Great Addresses . . . more

**Zucca**, 227 10th Avenue (near 23rd Street), Tel. 212/741-1970. Chelsea is hot. Big-time galleries that pepper the area include Annina Nosei, Matthew Marks, and the Dia Center. Can a hip restaurant be far behind? Zucca is smart, reasonable, and boisterously popular. Chef Eric Stapleman (originally responsible for nearby Luma) excels at crisp duck breast, rack of lamb, and his unique appetizer: foie gras with grilled figs and fruit.

**Club Room**, 131 Sullivan Street, Tel. 212/677-4100. Named in memory of the VIP Club Room in the once-upon-a-time Stork Club, Henry Meer's (late of Lutèce) bright, exuberant dining room is a glamorous success. The food is contemporary American—grilled salmon, quail with French lentils, crisp squash with ratatouille—and it comes with star-studded people watching.

## IN SAN DIEGO

**Cilantros**, 3702 Via de la Valle, Del Mar, Tel. 619/259-8777. Funny how hard it is to find good Mexican food on the South Coast. Here, both Mexican and Southwestern fare are informal and tasty. Begin with tapas and progress to chicken wings with jalapeño-honey mustard, duck and wild mushroom quesadillas, or pork tenderloin with tequila-chili relish. Desserts are killer!

**Marius**, Le Meridien Hotel at Coronado, 2000 Second Street, Tel. 619/435-3000. One of San Diego's more formal, elegant spots, Marius is a Provençal delight. René Herbeck turns out scrumptious wild mushroom ravioli, rosemary duck, and grilled sea bass that are definitely worth the trip across the bridge.

**Cafe Japengo**, Hyatt Regency La Jolla, 8960 University Center Lane, Tel. 619/450-3355. Whizzing down the 5 freeway to downtown San Diego, it's easy to forget that La Jolla is graced by a major complex by architect Michael Graves. If you have not explored the Aventine, a meal at Japengo provides the opportunity. Dishes range from katsu-marinated mahi-mahi served in a sea of lobster cream to Chinese-style duck with rich plum sauce.

**California Center for the Arts Museum**, 340 North Escondido Blvd., Escondido, Tel. 619/738-4120. Don't think about going to San Diego without stopping off here. The new museum, with lofty ceilings and grand spaces, is truly hospitable to art and the exhibitions always make you glad you made the effort. We make it a point to stroll the old-fashioned main street—caught in a happy time warp—and do a bit of flea-market antiquing. **150 Grand Cafe** (150 West Grand Avenue, Tel. 619/738-6868) on the main drag, is our favorite up-scale bistro for lunch or dinner in Escondido.

## News...more

**Cosby**) in a show called *My Favorite Chair*, curated by **Derek Ostergard**, Dean of Bard College's Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts. If you are blessed by sunny New York days, call 212/606-3893 for information on *NY Walks*, where *ARTexpress* friend **Laury Epstein** (author of *Outdoor Art: A Guide to American Sculpture Parks and Gardens*) is one of the knowledgeable guides.

Now is the time to mark your calendar for the March 10th re-opening of the **Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego**. The original **La Jolla** building by the renowned early 20th-century architect **Irving Gill** (virtually obliterated by later additions), is paid homage in a stunning **Robert Venturi/Denise Scott Brown** design. With the completion of the MCA Downtown (1993) and the opening of the new MCA La Jolla, exhibition space will more than double, plus bookstore, education, and restaurant facilities will grow in concert. The March 10th public reception will celebrate not only the \$9 million Venturi Scott Brown Associates renovation, but also the opening of two major exhibitions: *Continuity and Contradiction: Selections from the Permanent Collection* (through August 28) in La Jolla and *John Baldessari: National City Downtown*. The exhibition from the collection draws its title from Venturi's 1962 publication which revolutionized architectural thinking and defined "post-modernism." The exhibit will feature paintings from the 1960s by such artists as **Ellsworth Kelly**, **Frank Stella** and **Agnes Martin**, and recent works that use the distilled vocabulary of Minimalism, now infused with narrative, by **Kiki Smith**, **Lorna Simpson**, and others. Acknowledging that by the late 60s and early 70s the development of art was no longer linear, curator of the exhibition MCA Director **Hugh Davies** has, in addition, selected works that reflect a plurality of viewpoints. Look for key works by **Sara Charlesworth**, **Robert Gober**, **Alexis Smith**, and **Robert Therrien** — among many. The Downtown Baldessari show is also a toast to both the artist, who has a long association with the MCA, and to the museum which hosted his first exhibition in 1966. Baldessari grew up in National City and many of his most daring early innovations took place in San Diego. This exhibit will feature not only seminal works from 1967-1970, but also new work made in response to his return to his hometown. *John Baldessari: National City*, co-curated by **Hugh Davies** and Curatorial Coordinator **Andrea Hales**, will be accompanied by an illustrated catalogue (Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, 700 Prospect Street, La Jolla and 1001 Kettner Blvd. at Broadway; for further information, call Jessica O'Dwyer, Public

# ART EXPRESS ART EXPRESS

## Calendar

Through	Jan.	23	MOMA, New York	<i>Piet Mondrian</i>
Through	Jan.	28	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Howard Hodgkin: Paintings 1975-95</i>
Through	Jan.	28	Royal Academy, London	<i>David Hockney: Drawing Retrospective</i>
Through	Jan.	28	Museum Ludwig, Cologne	<i>Kasimir Malevich</i>
Through	Feb.	4	Whitney Museum, New York	<i>Beat Culture &amp; the New America 1950-65</i>
Through	Feb.	4	University Art Museum, Berkeley	<i>In the Light of Goya</i>
Through	Feb.	4	Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago	<i>Andres Serrano: 1983-1993</i>
Through	Feb.	4	Sprengel Museum, Hannover	<i>Allan McCollum "Natural Copies"</i>
Through	Feb.	4	Santa Barbara Museum of Art	<i>Point/Counterpoint: 20th-Cent. Latin Am. Art</i>
Through	Feb.	11	National Gallery, Washington D.C.	<i>Johannes Vermeer</i>
Through	Feb.	11	Louisiana Museum of Art, Humlebaek, Denmark	<i>Borealls: Art Biennale</i>
Through	Feb.	12	Centre Pompidou, Paris	<i>Feminine/Masculine: The Sex of Art</i>
Through	Feb.	18	Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh	<i>1995 Carnegie International</i>
Through	Feb.	18	Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyon	<i>Biennale d'Art Contemporain</i>
Through	Feb.	18	F. Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid	<i>Picasso in 1923</i>
Through	Feb.	18	Hirshhorn Museum, Washington D.C.	<i>Carmen Lomas Garza</i>
Through	Feb.	19	Corcoran Gallery, Washington D.C.	<i>Corcoran Biennial</i>
Through	Feb.	19	Musée du Louvre, Paris	<i>Dürer-Dubuffet: Drawings</i>
Through	Feb.	25	Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City	<i>Tamayo &amp; Bachardy</i>
Through	Feb.	25	Whitechapel, London	<i>Emil Nolde</i>
Through	Feb.	25	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston	<i>Tina Modotti</i>
Through	Feb.	25	Museum of Fine Arts, Boston	<i>Sylvia Plimack Mangold</i>
Through	Feb.	28	St. Petersburg, Russia	<i>Hidden Treasures Revealed</i>
Through	Mar.	3	Palace of Legion of Honor, San Francisco	<i>Achenbach Foundation</i>
Through	Mar.	3	Cincinnati Art Museum	<i>R.B. Kitaj: In Our Time</i>
Through	Mar.	3	Center for Fine Arts, Miami	<i>Duchamp's Leg</i>
Through	Mar.	10	Musée de Arte Moderno, Mexico City	<i>International Collection</i>
Through	Mar.	10	Whitney Museum, New York	<i>Joseph Cornell</i>
Through	Mar.	17	Minneapolis Institute of Art	<i>Impressionism &amp; Post-Imp. Works on Paper</i>
Through	Mar.	24	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Haute Couture</i>
Through	Mar.	24	MOCA, Los Angeles	<i>Sigmar Polke Photoworks</i>
Through	Mar.	24	Deichtorhallen, Hamburg	<i>Sonnabend Collection</i>
Through	Mar.	24	Tate Gallery, London	<i>The Art of War: 1939-45</i>
Through	Mar.	24	Brooklyn Museum, New York	<i>Schiaparelli: Surrealism in Fashion</i>
Through	Mar.	31	San Diego Museum of Art	<i>Rodin: Sculpture — Gerald Cantor Collection</i>
Through	Mar.	'97	San Jose Museum of Art	<i>American Art 1940-65: Traditions Reconsidered</i>
Through	Apr.	3	SFMOMA, San Francisco	<i>Lebbeus Woods</i>
Through	Apr.	14	Museum Capitolini, Rome	<i>Still-life in the Time of Caravaggio</i>
Through	May	31	Museo Rufino Tamayo, Mexico City	<i>Permanent Collection</i>
Through	July		Musée de Arte Moderno, Mexico City	<i>Tamayo &amp; Mexican Vanguard</i>
Jan. 16 -	Mar.	31	J.P. Getty Museum, Malibu	<i>Magic of Material Things: A. Renger-Patzsch</i>
Jan. 17 -	21			<i>Art 96/London (Contemporary Art Fair), England</i>
Jan. 19 -	28			<i>42nd Annual Winter Antiques Show, New York</i>
Jan. 20 -	Apr.	14	The New Museum, New York	<i>A Labor of Love</i>
Jan. 25 -	28			<i>Art Fair Seattle 96</i>
Jan. 26 -	28			<i>Outsider Art Fair, Puck Building, New York</i>
Feb. 3 -	Apr.	7	Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University, Atlanta	<i>Surreal Vision</i>
Feb. 4 -	May	31	California Center for the Arts Museum, Escondido	<i>Narcissism</i>
Feb. 7 -	Mar.	31	Baltimore Museum of Art	<i>Dorothea Lange: A Retrospective</i>
Feb. 8 -	13			<i>ARCO, (Contemporary Art Fair), Madrid</i>
Feb. 14 -	Apr.	28	Baltimore Museum of Art	<i>Dale Chihuly: Installations 1964-1995</i>
Feb. 16 -	Apr.	28	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Fabergé in America</i>
Feb. 17 -	Apr.	14	Museum of Modern Art, Oxford	<i>The Director's Eye</i>
Feb. 22 -	26			<i>The Art Show (Art Dealers Association of America Art Fair), New York</i>
Feb. 26 -	May	5	Centre de Cultura, Barcelona	<i>Art and Architecture in Europe 1932-45</i>
Mar. 1 -	Jun.	2	Mauritshuis, The Hague, Netherlands	<i>Johannes Vermeer</i>
Mar. 2 -	May	5	San Diego Museum of Art	<i>James Rosenquist: Time Dust 1962-1992</i>
Mar. 6 -	10			<i>Stockholm Art Fair</i>
Mar. 9 -	17			<i>European Fine Art Fair, Maastricht</i>
Mar. 14 -	17			<i>SOFA, (Sculpture, Objects, Functional Art,) Miami</i>
Mar. 14 -	18			<i>Art Frankfurt (Contemporary Art Fair)</i>
Mar. 16 -	20			<i>NICAF (Contemporary Art Fair), Yokohama</i>
Mar. 19 -	May	19	Metropolitan Museum, New York	<i>Splendors of Imperial China</i>
Mar. 20 -	Jun.	23	Centro Cultural Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City	<i>Anselm Kiefer 8</i>

## Travel Bookshelf: Mexico City

### Guides

*Mexico Access*. This guide is invaluable for orientating your tour by districts.

*Fodor's Mexico '95*.

*Baedeker's Mexico*. Updated 1993.

Lynn and Lawrence Foster. *Fielding's Mexico la guía:*

**ARTES DE MEXICO (A MUST!).**

*Frommer's Mexico City*, 1995. A new edition that does a particularly good job with museums and cultural attractions.

*Mexico City*, APA Insight Guides, 1994. Insight Guides are large scale, colorful and filled with picturesque photographs.

*Born to Shop: Mexico*. One in a popular series, this edition is by Suzy Gershman, who knows her gifts and goodies.

### History

Jonathan Kandell. *La Capitol, Biography of Mexico City*. Random House, 1988. Delightfully readable, scrupulously researched.

Bernal Díaz del Castillo. *The True History of the Conquest of New Spain*. By a Cortés lieutenant, this is generally thought to be the most accurate account of the Conquest.

Joan Haslip. *The Crown of Mexico*. Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1971. The story of Maximilian and Carlotta.

### Art, Architecture and Folk Art

*Mexico: Splendors of Thirty Centuries*, New York: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1990.

Edward Lucie-Smith. *Latin American Art of the 20th Century*, Thames and Hudson, 1993.

Dolores Olmedo Patiño. *Museo Dolores Olmedo Patiño*, 1995. (Museum catalogue available in the museum's gift store —Spanish only.)

Marion Oettinger. *Folk Treasures of Mexico: The Nelson A. Rockefeller Collection*, Abrams, NY.

Chloe Sayer. *Arts and Crafts of Mexico*, Chronicle Books, 1990.

Sarah M. Lowe. *Tina Modotti: Photographer*. Abrams, NY.

To familiarize yourself with the young, contemporary artists:

*Espiritu*. Escondido: California Center for the Arts

Museum, 1995 (with forward by Reese Shaw).

*New Moments in Mexican Art*, 1990.

Frida Kahlo has become such a cult figure that there are numerous books and biographies on her life. Our favorites are:

Carlos Fuentes and Sara M. Lowe. *Frida Kahlo: An Intimate Self-Portrait*, Abrams, 1995.

Hayden Herrera. *Frida: A Biography of Frida Kahlo*, 1983. THE definitive biography.

*The Blue House: The World of Frida Kahlo*, Frankfurt: Schirn Kunsthalle, 1993.

Also look for *Artes de Mexico*, a beautifully illustrated quarterly magazine devoted to Mexican folk arts and fine arts, and any of the numerous books on the architecture of Luis Barragán or the photography of Manuel Alvarez Bravo, Tina Modotti or Edward Weston (the Mexican years).

### Fiction and Literature

Laura Esquivel. *Like Water for Chocolate*, 1989.

Mary Morris. *Nothing to Declare*, 1988.

Sandra Cisneros. *The House on Mango Street and Woman Hollering Creek*.

Harriet Doerr. *Stones for Ibarra*, 1985.

Carlos Fuentes. *Where the Air is Clean*, 1986.

Octavio Paz. *The Labyrinth of Solitude*, 1985.

Octavio Paz. *Eagle or Sun*, 1990. Prose poems.

Celia Correás de Zapata (ed.). *The Magic and the Real*. Short stories by Latin American Women, 1990.