

MUSEO SOUMAYA: a collection of collections

The Museum opened its doors to the public on December 8, 1994, in a space that once belonged to the conqueror Hernán Cortés. This site, in the popular San Ángel district in the southern part of Mexico City, was also a mill during the viceroyalty era, and later the biggest and most important paper mill in Latin America, Loreto y Peña Pobre, and, in the 1990s, a mall and cultural center. The Museum is a not-for-profit organization that collects, researches, preserves and disseminates artistic testimonies, primarily from Mexico and Europe. It offers numerous ways for visitors to interact with the collection.

The mission of Museo Soumaya is to share one of the most important private collections in the Americas, and to extend its reach to those who cannot travel or take part in artistic work, so that they may enjoy art in their own city or country from a place and time different from their own. In addition, the museum recovers works from foreign markets and returns them to their country of origin.

The objectives of the Museum are to present works from this collection through permanent, temporary and traveling exhibits; to bring local and international audiences to study the artwork and integrate it into their daily lives, and, in terms of Mexican art, to put it on a comparable footing with international art. To do this, the Museum has published a monthly magazine for an uninterrupted 10 years, as well as 27 catalogues, various publications, education guides and an internet site where visitors can even take a virtual tour of the Museum's various exhibits.

Also, through conferences, courses, guided tours, workshops and meetings, Museo Soumaya is committed to the integration of art and society. In programs for children, youth, adults, senior citizens and persons with disabilities, this institution makes possible individual and collective aesthetic enjoyment, a dialogue with art from a new perspective, and the opportunity to not only be a spectator but also a creator.

Museo Soumaya's holdings include more than 64,000 works in the following collections:

- The largest collection of Auguste Rodin sculptures outside of France.
- Old European Masters
- Old New Spain Masters
- Mesoamerican art
- Devotional illustrations
- Mexican landscapes and portraits of the 19th century
- Large collection of Mexican gold coins
- Medals and paper bills from the 16th to the 20th centuries
- Popular art
- Dresses and textiles from the 18th through the 20th centuries
- Miniatures and reliquaries

- Impressionist works
- European vanguards
- Mexican art from the 20th century
- Oil paintings and Mexican chromolithography prints from Imprenta Galas de México
- Photographs of infant death, eroticism, distinguished individuals from Mexico's history, and Mexican religious and civic holidays
- Applied arts from the 7th through the 20th centuries

Prestigious and specialized research institutes from Mexico, Central and South America, Canada, the United States and Europe have studied this collection of collections. This has enabled Museo Soumaya to exhibit at top cultural facilities, including 24 states in the Mexican Republic, seven cities in the United States, as well as in San Salvador, Panama; Buenos Aires; the Port of Sete in France; Madrid and Bilbao in Spain; and Beirut in Lebanon, all of which have enjoyed some of the magnificent treasures from the collection.

Over the course of twelve years the Museum has become an important cultural establishment in Mexico, joining forces with sister institutions such as the CONDUMEX Center for the Study of Mexican History. In addition, we are seeking to establish links with other institutions to form a Mexican Association of Private Museums, and plan to open a new Museo Soumaya in 2009, to be co-located with one of the most important modern art collections of the country. The cultural center will have more than 8,000 square meters of exhibit space, a library, a 400-person auditorium, four game rooms, a restaurant, two stores and avant-garde facilities where organic forms and a fluid layout will allow an innovative flow in the west of Mexico City.

Museo Soumaya, which is the cultural face of Fundación Carso, seeks to provide the community with a meeting place, an open forum for discussion where ideas and emotions converge, a real sense of beauty in art, the passion for images, the volumes, the colors. Rodin stated: *“Earthly activity, as imperfect as it may be, continues to be beautiful and good. Let us love life for the very effort it takes”*.

Museo Soumaya Facts and Figures

- Opening of Museum: December 8, 1994
- Number of artists in the collection: 1,045
- Entry donation: 10 pesos
- Entry donation for students and professors: 5 pesos
- Entry cost for senior citizens and for persons with different abilities: free
- Free entry days: 2 (Sundays and Mondays)
- Number of monthly magazines: 123
- Number of catalogues: 27
- Average number of weekly visitors to Museo Soumaya: more than 1,300
- Schools and institutions to which breakfast, guided tours and workshop are offered free of charge: 2,867
- Asylums it supports: 30
- Orphanages care for: 84
- Number of courses taught: 48
- States of the Republic where Museo Soumaya collections have been exhibited: 27
- Countries where the Museum has exhibited its holdings: 15
- Cities in the United States where the Museum has exhibited: 7
- Visitors to the exhibit *Myth, Mortals and Immortality. Works from Museo Soumaya de México*, at the International Gallery of the Smithsonian Institute from September - November, 2006: 36,066 (700 people per day. A record for this Institute)
- Visitors to the exhibit *Six Centuries of Art. One Hundred Big Masters*, in celebration of the first decade of the Museum: 304,724
- Visitors to the exhibit *Rodin in the Historical Center* in the Atrium of the Saint Francis Church: 338,276
- Current average number of daily visitors to the exhibit *Juan Soriano in the Historical Center*: 3,500.

Rodin:

Bronze statues. From the Museo Soumaya Collection

The legend of Chromos

Siqueiros

Wind stopped. Mythology and history in the folding screen art

Devotional illustrations: Imagery of religious fervor

Modesty and Lightness. Three centuries of fashion in Mexico City

From the heart ... Baroque heartbeats of Mexicans

**Museo Soumaya
National and International Traveling Exhibits
2000 – 2007**

United States

Washington, D. C.
New York
Denver
Chicago
San Francisco
San Antonio
Los Angeles

Central and South America

Argentina
El Salvador
Panama

Europe and Asia

Spain
France
Lebanon

Upcoming

Nicaragua
Honduras
United States
Puerto Rico
Brazil
Argentina
Colombia
Chile
Spain

EXHIBIT	SITE	DATE
	Centro Cultural Villahermosa Villahermosa, Tab.	2001
	Museo Amparo Puebla, Pue Centro Cultural Santo Domingo Oaxaca, Oax Museo de Arte Abstracto "Manuel Felguerez" Zacatecas, Zac Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coah.	2001

RODIN IN MEXICO	Museo de Historia Mexicana Monterrey, N. L. Museo de Aguascalientes Aguascalientes, Ags Museo de Arte de Zapopan Zapopan, Jal. Museo Chihuahuense de Arte Contemporáneo "Casa Redonda" Chihuahua, Chih	2007 2002
	Museo Regional de Querétaro Querétaro, Qro. Museo Regional de Colima Colima, Co. Centro Cultural Tijuana Tijuana, Baja California	2003
	Museo Regional de la Laguna Torreón, Coah Museo Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez Toluca, Estado de México Museo Linares Linares, N. L. Universidad de Guanajuato Guanajuato, Gto.	2004
	Galería "Jesús Gallardo" León, Guanajuato Palacio Clavijero Morelia, Mich	2005
	Centro Histórico México, D. F. Instituto Politécnico Nacional México, D. F. Museo Antropológico Reina Torres de Araúz Panamá, Panamá Governor's Mansion Tallahassee, Florida	2006
	Espacio Cultural Metropolitano Tampico, Tamaulipas Centro Estatal de las Artes de Baja California Mexicali, B. C.	2007
	Museo de Arte de Sinaloa Culiacán, Sinaloa Museo de Historia Mexicana Monterrey, N. L. Museo Chihuahuense de Arte Contemporáneo "Casa Redonda" Chihuahua, Chih Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Aguascalientes	2001

The Legend Of the Chromos	Aguascalientes, Ags.	
	Museo de Arte Contemporáneo "Ángel de Zarraga" Durango, Dgo. Museo Linares Linares, N. L. Museo de Arte Moderno Gómez Palacio, Dgo. Galería Jesús Gallardo León, Guanajuato Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coah	2002
	Museo de la ciudad de Querétaro Querétaro, Qro Museo de Arte e Historia de Ciudad Juárez Ciudad Juárez, Chih. Unesco Palace Beirut, Lebanon Museo Regional de Guadalajara Guadalajara, Jal.	2003
	Mexic-Arte Museum Austin, Texas Instituto Cultural Mexicano de San Antonio San Antonio, Texas Museo Regional de Cuauhnáhuac / Palacio de Cortés Cuernavaca, Morelos	2004
	Auditorio Nacional México, D. F. Museo de Arte Contemporáneo "Alfredo Zalce" Morelia, Mich Museo José María Velasco Toluca, Estado de México	2005
	Instituto de Cultura de Baja California Mexicali, Baja California	2006
	Devotional Illustrations	Museo Regional de Guadalupe Zacatecas, Zac.
Museo de Arte Colonial Morelia, Mich,		2002
Museo Regional de Antropología "Palacio Cantón" Mérida, Yucatán		2003
Wind Stopped Mythologies and	Museo Regional de Guadalupe Zacatecas, Zacatecas Museo Histórico de Acapulco "Fuerte de San Diego" Acapulco, Gro	2002

Histories In the Folding Screen Art	Museo de Arte de Querétaro Querétaro, Querétaro	2003
	Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coahuila	2005
	Centro Cultural Vito Alessio Robles Saltillo, Coahuila	2006
JOSE MARIA VELASCO	Museo de Arte de Zapopan Zapopan, Jal	2003
Landscape and Other 19th century Mexican Landscape	Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coahuila Museo Chihuahuense de Arte Contemporáneo "Casa Redonda" Chihuahua, Chih	2004
DAVID	Museo Chihuahuense de Arte Contemporáneo "Casa Redonda" Chihuahua, Chihuahua	2003
	Museo Linares Linares, N. L.	2004
ALFARO	Museo de las Americas Denver, Colorado	2005
SIQUEIROS	Museo de Arte de El Salvador / MARTE El Salvador, San Salvador	
	Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coah Centro Cultural Vito Alessio Robles Saltillo, Coahuila	2006
From the Heart --- Baroque Heartbeats of Mexicans	Galleria "Jesús Gallardo" León, Guanajuato Museo de Historia Mexicana Monterrey, N. L. Museo Biblioteca PAPE Monclova, Coah	2004
Family Portrait	Galería "Jesús Gallardo" León, Guanajuato	2004
Treasures of Museo Soumaya	Palacio Márquez de Salamanca Madrid, Spain Edificio de San Nicolás Bilbao, Spain	2004
2300 Spoons and Utensils 2800 years	Museo Nacional de Historia "Castillo de Chapultepec" México City, D. F.	2004
Modesty And Lightness	Museo Histórico de Acapulco "Fuerte de San Diego" Acapulco, Guerrero	2004
	Museo de Arte e Historia de Ciudad Juárez Ciudad Juárez, Chih Centro Cultural Tijuana	2005

	Tijuana, Baja California	
Self Portrait	Universidad de Guanajuato Guanajuato, Guanajuato	2005
	Galería de Jesús Gallardo León, Guanajuato	2006
1900 Impressionism and Vanguard	Galería de Universidad de Guanajuato Guanajuato, Gto.	2006
Family Portrait	Museo Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez Toluca, Estado de México	2005
José Agustín Arrieta	Museo de Arte de Tlaxcala Tlaxcala, Tlax.	2006
On the Divine and Crystalline Viceroyalty	Museo Felipe Santiago Gutiérrez Toluca, Estado de México	2006
Myth, Mortals and Immortality	Smithsonian Latino Center Washington, D. C.	2006