

## JAMES PEARSON DUFFY DEPARTMENT OF ART AND ART HISTORY

Wayne State University  
James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History  
Elaine L. Jacob Gallery  
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**Exhibition:** *Folk Art from Oaxaca: Eight Artists, Eight Voices*  
**Dates:** **October 27 through December 15, 2017**  
**Reception:** **Friday, October 27, 5-8PM**  
**Lecture:** **Thursday, November 9, 6:30-7:30PM** (Purdy-Kresge Library Auditorium, WSU)  
**Gallery Tour /Demo:** **Saturday, November 11, 1-5PM** (Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, WSU)  
**Hours:** **Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10AM-6PM; Fridays, 10AM-7PM**  
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DETROIT, MI, October, 2017 – The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History, Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University (WSU), Detroit, is pleased to present *Folk Art from Oaxaca: Eight Artists, Eight Voices*, curated by Alejandra Muñúzuri. The exhibition dates are October 27 through December 15, 2017. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 27, 5-8PM.

Works by the following artists and cooperatives are featured in the exhibition: Mario Castellanos and Reina Ramirez, Giovanni Melchor, Tribús Mixes, Fernando Peguero and Leticia Blanco, and Manuel Reyes and Maricela Gómez.

*Folk Art from Oaxaca: Eight Artists, Eight Voices* coincides with the department's community outreach programming, which includes Southwest Detroit, a Latinx-based community that actively embraces art programs that are influential to the city. The concept for this exhibition is consistent with the educational mission of the Department of Art and Art History, WSU.

We are grateful to host this exhibition in collaboration with Marilyn Wheaton, Director of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum, Saginaw Valley State University, Saginaw, MI; and the exhibition's curator, Alejandra Muñúzuri, Oaxaca, Mexico.

Special programming will include a lecture by curator Alejandra Muñúzuri, Thursday, November 9, 6:30-7:30PM at the Purdy-Kresge Library Auditorium, WSU; and a demonstration / workshop instructed by featured artist Mario Castellanos, Saturday, November 11, 1-5PM at the Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, WSU. The demonstration / workshop will be coordinated by Avanti Herczeg, Academic Advisor, from the Department of Art and Art History. Participants will include youth from Southwest, Detroit recreation centers who also participate in the department's summer Mobile Arts Workshop program.

Works by the following artists and cooperatives are featured in the exhibition:

**Mario Castellanos** and **Reina Ramirez** produce one of a kind *alebrijes* (hand carved and painted wood figures) in their hometown of Arrazola. Everyone in the family has a specific task, whether it is carving, painting, or sanding. The production of each piece is a family collaboration. Mario is a member of the EcoAlebríjes Sustainable Association, founded in 2003, which promotes the reforestation of the *copal* tree, the main material for carving these amazing images.

**Giovanni Melchor** is a solo (unusual) *alebrije* carver and an emerging young artist from San Martín Tilcajete. Like many Oaxacan artists, he learned how to carve from his father and how to paint from his mother. He is the grandchild of one of the founders of the *alebrije* movement in Oaxaca.

**Tribús Mixes** is a cooperative founded by the Martínez Villanueva brothers, Noel and Neftalí. The project invites young girls and boys from different villages around the state of Oaxaca to do residencies and learn the art of woodcarving and painting, combined with the option to finish high school and go on to university. The residency takes place in the beautiful Martínez Villanueva home in Viguera. The Martínez brothers have supported the program for over twenty years with their beautiful woodcarvings.

**Fernando Peguero** and **Leticia Blanco** (his mother) share a love for clay and for telling stories. Fernando, a young emerging artist from Atzompa, has taken his art to another level, breaking away from his village tradition of making utilitarian pots. These ideas he originally learned from his mother, who is well known for her clay figure sculptures. Fernando has clearly taken it a step further and is constantly exploring diverse styles.

**Manuel Reyes** and **Maricela Gómez** also found their passion in clay and each with their unique styles share with us their personal stories. Santo Domingo Yanhuítlán is their inspiration and their homeland, and its amazing history and dramatic landscapes are represented in their work.

The James Pearson Duffy Department of Art and Art History is a division of Wayne State's College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts, educating the next generation of visual artists, designers and art historians. Wayne State University, located in the heart of Detroit's midtown cultural center, is a premier urban research university offering more than 350 academic programs through 13 schools and colleges to more than 28,000 students.

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