

# Love for Details

Collecting Treasured objects





Frida Kahlo's personal collection of traditional Mexican handcrafted toys

# Details at Casa Azul

Intention & curating of

1. Folk Art

2. Crafts

3. Color

4. Precolumbian Art

5. Architecture

# 1. Folk Art



# Papier-mâché: Judas

- Most of the Catholic Mexican festivities have an ethnic touch.
- Encounter between European and the indigenous cultures
- 80% of the Mexicans consider themselves Catholic
- Easter and also known as Holly Week
- During these dates, it takes place the traditional burning of Judas.  
elaborated of papier-mâché figures symbolizing Judas stuffed with fireworks that will be exploded.
- With this burning, sins and evils are ritually cleansed and, at the same time, Mexicans welcome the arrival of spring and the sowing season.



# Papier-mâché: Alebrijes



# Papier-mâché: Alebrijes

The alebrije is a type of Mexican folk art sculptures of fantastical creature invented by Pedro Linares

These crafts are made from a cardboard technique, which are painted with colorful and vibrant colors.

The alebrijes are imaginary mythical creature conformed by physiognomy elements of different animals or a combination of several. The technique that is used to create the alebrijes it's called "Cartonería" or "Papier- mâché" which consisting of paper pieces bound with an adhesive such as glue or starch.

It's usually form by newspaper sheets.

There are two main methods used to prepare papier-mâché; one makes use of paper strips glued together with the adhesive, and the other used paper pulp obtained by soaking or boiling paper with the glue then added.

In the technique used a chicken wire, balloon or lightweight shapes may be needed to reinforce the figure and finally painting with different methods.



## 2. Crafts

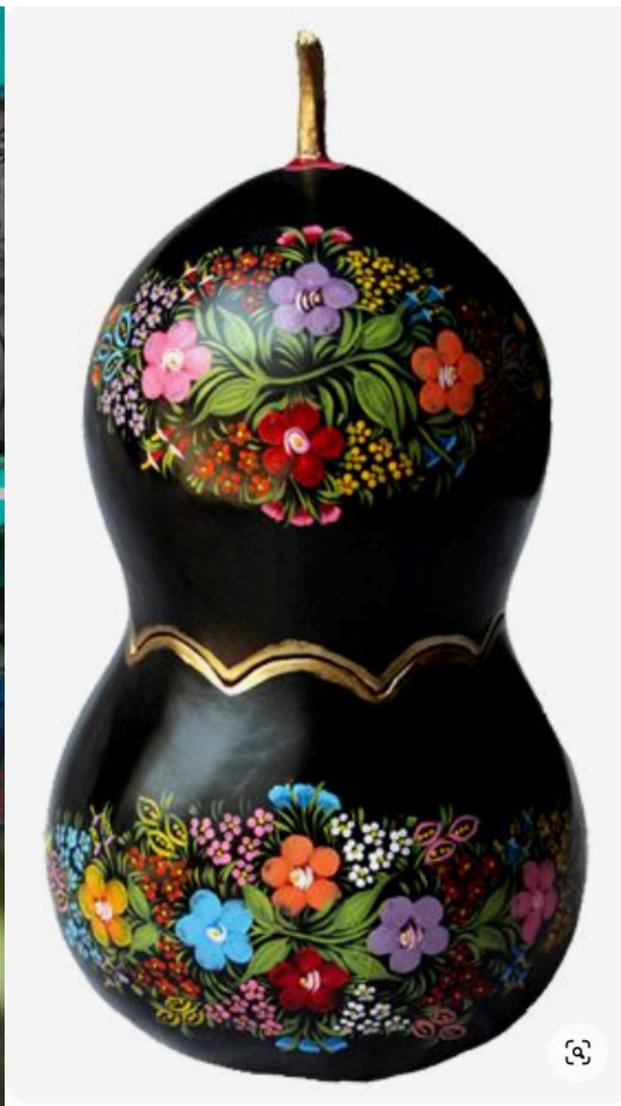


# Crafts: Mexican Lacquer

Wood objects or dried gourds that depict highly symmetrical patterns of flowers.

Involve the production of trays, platters, boxes, paneled screens and furniture.

The existence of lacquer was addressed by the franciscan priest Bernardino de Sahagún at the arrival of Spanish and prior to the development of colonial New Spain.



# Crafts: Woven palm fronds.

Petate

Scene from the Florentine Codex show food in baskets



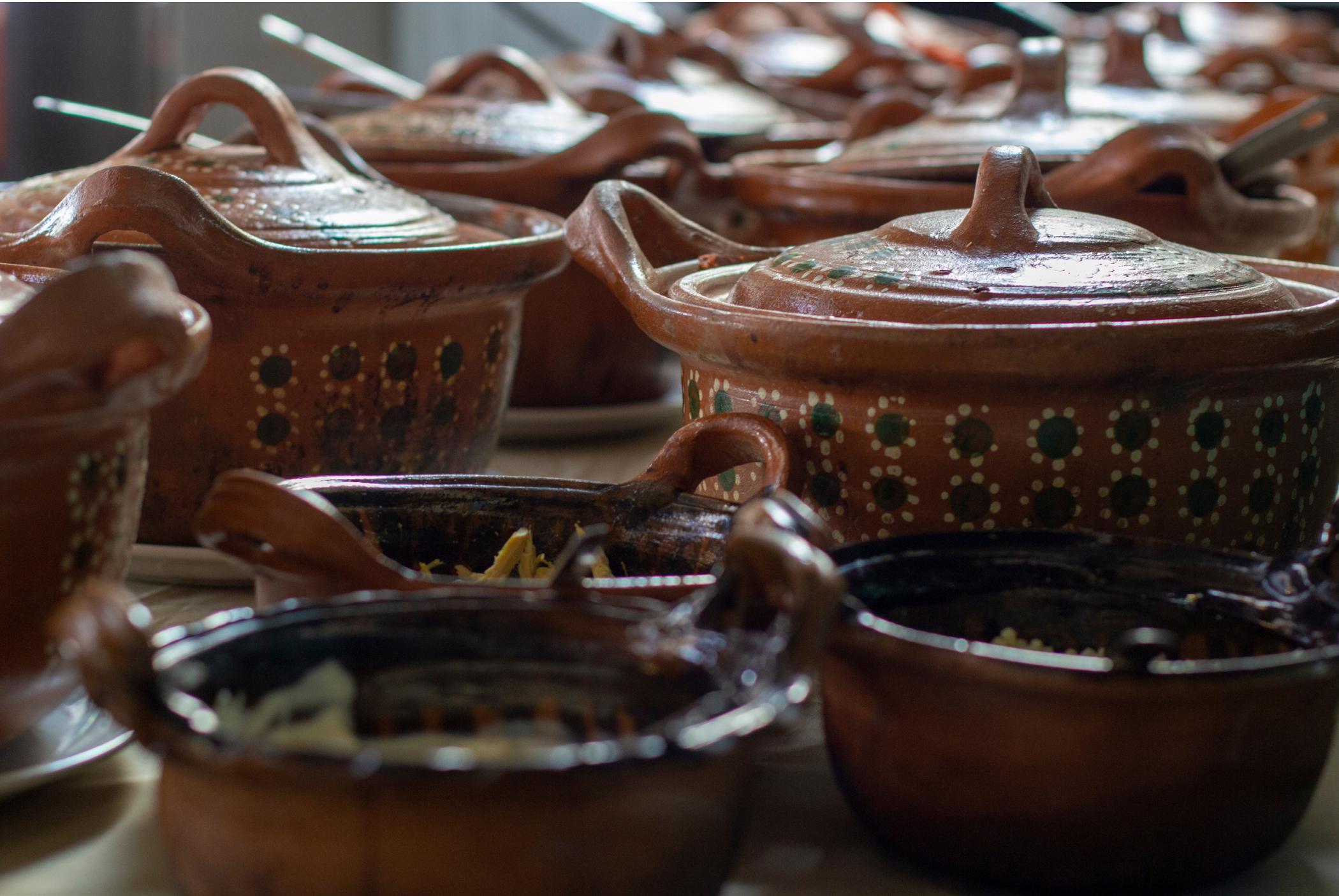


Reservado de Diego  
Diego y Frida

SALIDA DE EMERGENCIA

Frida y Diego  
vivieron en  
esta casa  
1929-1954

# Crafts: Mexican pottery



# Mexican pottery





Agustín Arrieta, Cocina poblana, Óleo sobre tela, 1865.

# Crafts: Mexican pottery



# Crafts: Mexican pottery



# 3. Color



Awareness  
and planning  
around **color** to  
match their  
aesthetic  
sensitivity



# Frida & color

“ I'll try out the pencils sharpened to the point of infinity  
which always sees ahead:

**Green**, good warm light

**Magenta** Aztec. old TLAPALI. blood of prickly pear, the  
brightest and oldest

**Brown**, color of mole, of leaves becoming earth

**Yellow**, madness sickness fear part of the sun and of happiness

**Blue**, electricity and purity love

**Black**, nothing is black — really nothing

**Olive**, leaves, sadness, science, the whole of Germany is this color

**Yellow** more madness and mystery all the ghosts wear  
clothes of this color, or at least their underclothes

**Dark blue**, color of bad advertisements and of good business

**Blue**, distance. Tenderness can also be this blue

**Blood?** Well, who knows! ”



# Blue color

Several blue colorants were manufactured from native Mexican plants. Indigo is a blue made from the leaves of the *Indigofera suffruticosa* plant that grows in Mexico, Central and South America (Torres 1988). The Aztecs called the blue colorant “xuiquilitl” whereas the Spanish referred to it as “azul de añil,” or simply “añil.” Indigo was used as a dye for fabrics and textiles, and as a cosmetic by the Aztecs (Emmart 1961). Archaeologists studying pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican ruins were surprised by the discovery of blue murals in the Maya Riviera, modern day Mexico and Guatemala, from as early as 300 AD, perhaps the most famous being the murals at the temple of Chichén Itzá (created around 450 AD).

The colour had a special ceremonial significance for the Mayan and Aztecs



*The 1,600-year-old murals at the Mayan temple at Chichén Itzá still have vibrant colours, including blue, which usually fades  
(Credit: Getty Images)*

## 4. Precolumbian Art

Private collection of originals and replicas





## Post-revolutionary Mexico. Muralism

redefining the narrative about identity

reevaluation of indigenous expressions & culture



## **4. Architecture**



# Spanish Architecture

Distribution around a central patio



# French Architecture

19th Century, Art Nouveau



# Modern architecture of a new century



Le Corbusier, Modern architecture

Pavillon L'Esprit Nouveau at the International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts in Paris in 1925

# Between modern & traditional. Juan O' Gorman



Juan O'Gorman, House and Studio of Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo (including the Casa Azul), 1931–32, Mexico City, Mexico (photo: Jay Galvin(Opens in a new window)(Opens in a new window), CC BY 2.0)



**Between modern  
& traditional.**