



RAÚL ANGUIANO

RETRATO DE UN MAESTRO

JULY 17 – SEPTEMBER 27, 2015

Raúl Anguiano was a Mexican artist best known for creating **murals** in public spaces for everyone to enjoy. He is celebrated for experimenting with new artistic styles and different techniques. His surrealistic paintings describe his dreams, while **lithographs** and **etchings** comment on topics of his time. Anguiano portrayed the reality of his country, especially the Mexican **indigenous** people, women and the working class.

Use the activities in this guide to learn more about Anguiano's eclectic work!

ABOUT ANGUIANO



Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915–2006) Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

Raúl Anguiano (1915-2006) was born in Guadalajara, Jalisco during the Mexican Revolution. Growing up during a dangerous time made him aware of the people and events around him. An observant and curious child, he began to draw when he was 4 years old and found his passion at the Free School of Painting when he was 12.

At 17, Anguiano became a drawing teacher to help support his family. Wanting to improve his skills and see the world, he moved to Mexico City where he learned about the **murals** and joined the **Mexican School of Painting**. He was convinced that art was for everybody.

Anguiano's art evolved as he traveled and met other artists with goals similar to his own. He experimented with different styles, always searching for the best way to express himself about politics, the division of rich and poor and the diversity of people in Mexico. Anguiano's never-ending creativity, educational interest, and commitment to the arts and his country make him one of the great Mexican artists of the 20th century.



To explore Anguiano's different artistic periods, scan the code or go to <http://bit.ly/1McxS3f>



THINK ABOUT IT: Anguiano found his passion for painting at an early age. What is your passion and how did you find it? If you're not sure, ask someone you're with what their passion is!

ART IS FOR AND ABOUT EVERYONE



Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 - 2006). *Figuras de la Farándula / Friends Enjoying Themselves*. 1937. Ink and pen on paper, 32 x 48.5 cm. Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

Raúl Anguiano dedicated his long life to creating art for all to enjoy. As a **social realist**, Anguiano wanted to change the role of art in society. He believed that art should mirror the daily lives of common people. By painting outdoor **murals** in public places, he also made sure everyone would be able to see them.

In the past, art was not meant for everyone to enjoy; only royalty and wealthy, powerful individuals could afford to buy art or have their portraits made. Anguiano portrayed all types of people in his work, even those who lived in “low” neighborhoods. To him, they were equally important.

Escenas de Carpa/Friends Enjoying Themselves shows another side of Mexico. It depicts circus performers who Anguiano met during his nighttime walks. Anguiano celebrated Mexico’s people, traditions and culture by painting what he saw every day.



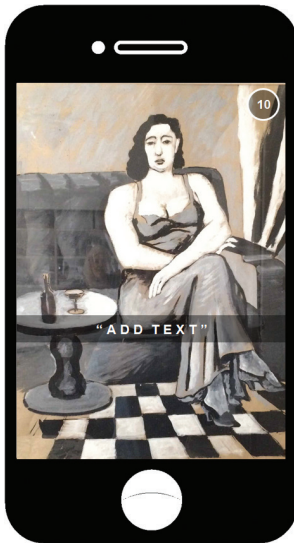
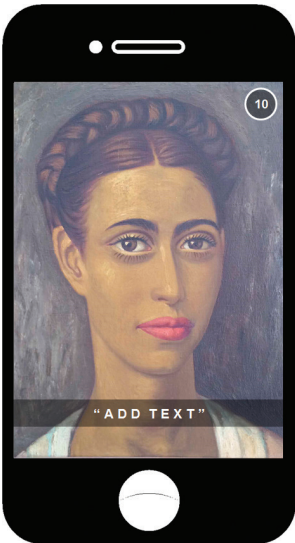
THINK ABOUT IT: Due to budget cuts, many schools do not have the resources to fund arts programs. Teachers in those schools need to find creative ways to teach art to their students. What would you do to make sure that everyone could enjoy the arts?

PORTRAITS

Raúl Anguiano is considered one of Mexico's masters of the modern **portrait**. Anguiano especially enjoyed painting women. His portraits of everyday women, society ladies and celebrities are expressive and show the viewer their unique personalities. Anguiano thought all women were beautiful and was inspired by the love and strength he saw in them. That is why his portraits depict them with solid postures and attentive gazes.



#IMAGINE: What does your "selfie" say about you? Create captions for the 10-second snaps below with what you believe the people in these portraits were thinking about while Anguiano painted them!



(left to right):
Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 - 2006) *La Madame*, 1936. Gouache paper, 54 x 47 cm. Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.
Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 - 2006) *La muchacha del abrigo verde / The Girl with the Green Coat*, 1938. Oil on canvas, 86 x 64 cm. Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

SURREALISM



Image caption: Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 - 2006), *La Llorona*, 1938, Gouache sobre papel, 48 x 66 cm. Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

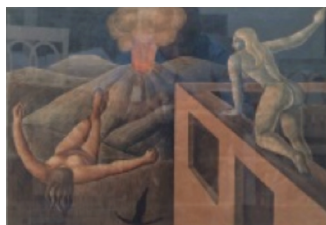
Raúl Anguiano's active dream life and perfect memory allowed him to remember exactly what he dreamt. Although different from his **nationalist** style, Anguiano used **Surrealism** to create images filled with the fear and terror he felt during his nightmares. He also wanted his surrealist work to feel new, but without letting go of his Mexican roots.

Anguiano's *La Llorona* illustrates a bad dream based on a popular Mexican folk story. Its originality comes from combining Mexican symbols with features that are more descriptive of the international surrealist movement. Many consider the fantastic quality in Anguiano's drawings and paintings to be an important element in some of his most interesting work.



La Llorona is one of Mexico's most famous urban legends. To learn how it began, and what its significance is today, scan the code or go to <http://bit.ly/1C4awwa>

SPOOKY STORY



Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 - 2006) *El Espacio y el sueño / The Space and the Dream*, 1934, Watercolor, 35 x 49.5 cm, Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.



SPOOKY STORY BREAK:

According to an anonymous letter* received at the Museum, we learned that Raúl Anguiano's *El Espacio y el Sueño / The Space and the Dream* was inspired by a real, catastrophic event...

"*The Popo* is one of Mexico's most active volcanoes today and many people are afraid to go near it. My friends and I like adventure, so about a year ago we went to explore it one night. We drove up the mountain at 6:00 PM. It's a long way to get to the volcano. By 8:00 PM the sun went down and all of a sudden our truck started to slowly roll down the mountain. I was convinced that my friend, who was driving was joking around and moving the car. When I asked him, he pressed the gas and the engine roared, but we kept rolling down slowly.

Before we knew it, we were halfway down the mountain, close to where we started. The car rolled down a bit faster every time we tried to drive up again. After the rolling stopped, we got out of the car with flashlights to clean the dirty car windows. What I remember seeing was seriously creepy; there were shapes that looked like tiny hand-prints over the dirt. We drove back home in silence.

Days later, I looked up the story about the volcano: *Volcán Popocatepetl*, whose name is the Aztec word for 'Smoking Mountain'. It came back to life in 1994 with a powerful eruption after almost 50 years of inactivity. It destroyed Aztec communities located nearby, including a school full of children. Scientists say that gravity disappeared in the area after it erupted and many things can be seen floating around it. Some say the children's bodies can be seen from far away at night, as if they were trying to say something. The rumor was that the rolling backwards is caused by the children pushing the car to keep people from the same fate."

-Anonymous

* *This story is pure fiction!*



Spooky Tip: You can read more Mexican urban legends by scanning the code or going to <http://bit.ly/1ITjUJF>



Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915 – 2006)
 Madrid en ruinas / Madrid in Ruins, 1937.
 Pen on paper 24 x 34.5 cm
 Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

Raúl Anguiano was a founding member of the *Taller de Grafica Popular* (*Popular Graphics Workshop* or *TGP*). The *Workshop* supported better paying jobs and a well-rounded education for workers and peasants. It also stood against war and domination.

Anguiano created **lithographs and etchings** to highlight Mexico’s popular traditions and culture. He used **satire** in his drawings to express his views of the country in a way that could be seen as a joke, like poking fun at the government. Anguiano also enjoyed using popular sayings that reflected the time he lived in. He used them to draw attention to unfair political events and the sorrow and poverty of his people.



To watch videos of Anguiano printing **lithographs and etchings**, scan the code or go to <http://bit.ly/1ITksWL>



CHALLENGE: How many popular sayings can you complete below?

<p>1. Avoiding the main point: Stop beating around the _____!</p>	<p>2. Recalling a memory: Ring any _____?</p>	<p>3. Another word for your crew or group of friends: The _____ will be coming tonight, wearing all black.</p>
<p>4. Being extremely happy: I feel like I'm on _____nine!</p>	<p>5. Identifying a large, obvious problem: What's the _____ in the room?</p>	<p>6. Ruining someone's happy moment: Sorry I burst your _____ / Please don't rain on my _____.</p>

Answers to Challenge:
 1-6: bush, bells, squad, cloud, elephant, bubble / parade.

NEW WORDS

1. **Etching:** Using a fine, sharp tool to scratch a picture onto a plate of copper or zinc, and then inking the plate to make multiple prints of the image.
2. **Fiction:** Short stories and novels that describe imaginary events and people.
3. **Indigenous:** The original inhabitants of a region or country.
4. **Lithograph:** Drawing on limestone with wax crayons, applying ink onto the stone and printing the image onto paper multiple times.
5. **Mexican School of Painting:** An art movement in Mexico, after the revolution, that helped create a new Mexican identity. Artists used specific symbols and styles related to Mexican culture. The government promoted the movement by funding public **murals**.
6. **Mural:** A large image usually painted directly onto or attached to a wall.
7. **Nationalism:** Devotion and loyalty to one's country, often accompanied by the belief that one's country is the best.
8. **Portrait:** A picture of a person.
9. **Satire:** Using humor to explore serious, frightening or challenging ideas.
10. **Social realism:** A 20th Century art movement that reflected everyday events and working-class people.
11. **Surrealism:** A style of art developed in the 20th Century that uses dreams and fantasy as the subject matter.

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Cover: Raúl Anguiano (Mexico, 1915–2006) *Flor de pato*, 1942, Oil on Masonite, 82 x 59 in, Courtesy of Brigita Anguiano.

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