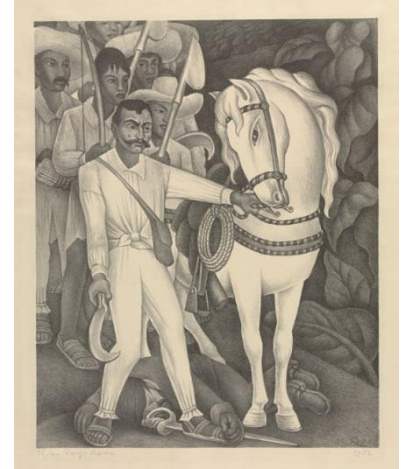


THE BMA PRESENTS FIRST EXHIBITION OF MEXICAN MODERNIST PRINTS & DRAWINGS FROM THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTION

Los Tres Grandes (The Three Great Ones)—Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, and David Alfaro Siqueiros—are among the artists featured

BALTIMORE, MD (October 26, 2017)—The Baltimore Museum of Art (BMA) explores an unprecedented period of cultural and intellectual exchange between Mexico and the U.S. in *Crossing Borders: Mexican Modernist Prints*, on view November 19, 2017 through March 11, 2018. The exhibition features 30 prints and drawings created in the 1930s and 1940s by artists such as Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and Elizabeth Catlett. *Crossing Borders* is also the first exhibition to highlight the BMA's outstanding holdings of works by Mexican modernist artists.

"In *Crossing Borders*, one sees how the bold and expressive figurative imagery of these prints underscores the political, social, and cultural shifts taking place in the years following the Mexican Revolution," said Rena Hoisington, Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs. "In the 1930s and 1940s, printmaking played a major role in publicizing and forging a distinctly modern Mexican identity."



Among the works in *Crossing Borders* that address social issues is *Zapata* (1932), Rivera's lithograph of Mexican Revolution hero and agrarian leader Emiliano Zapata. One of the earliest Mexican modernist prints to enter the BMA's collection, it shows Zapata and his horse standing over the dead body of a wealthy landowner as farmers crowd in behind them. Other examples include Orozco's *The Lynching* (1934), a wrenching condemnation of racial violence from the portfolio *The American Scene, No. 1* that depicts mutilated bodies hanging from trees and burning in flames. *Imperialist Industrialization* (1945), a linoleum cut by Leopoldo Méndez points to the complexities of Mexico's shift from an overwhelmingly agricultural economy to an industrial one at the expense of the poor. Méndez was one of the founders of the influential *Taller de Gráfica Popular* (People's Graphic Art Workshop). Declaring its commitment to "the progressive and democratic interests of the Mexican people," this printmaking collective and artist community opened its doors to all regardless of their race or social standing, including visitors from abroad.

Three works by *Taller de Gráfica Popular* artist Elizabeth Catlett include *My right is a future of equality with other Americans* (1946-47), the final print from the artist's series, *The Negro Woman*. This epic narrative tells of the struggles, oppressions, and achievements of African American women. *Reclining Nude* (1931) by Siqueiros is a recently acquired transfer lithograph of his companion Uruguayan poet Blanca Luz Brum that was created while the artist was living in exile in the remote mining town of Taxco. Its intermingling, three-dimensional forms seem to oscillate between stone sculpture and human flesh.

Crossing Borders: Mexican Modernist Prints is curated by Senior Curator of Prints, Drawings & Photographs Rena Hoisington.

Crossing Borders: Mexican Modernist Prints is generously sponsored by Wilmington Trust.

THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

Founded in 1914, The Baltimore Museum of Art is a major cultural destination recognized for engaging diverse audiences through dynamic exhibitions and innovative educational and community outreach programs. The BMA's internationally renowned collection of 95,000 objects encompasses more than 1,000 works by Henri Matisse anchored by the famed Cone Collection of modern art, as well as one of the nation's finest holdings of prints, drawings, and photographs. The galleries showcase an exceptional collection of art from Africa; important works by established and emerging contemporary artists; outstanding European and American paintings, sculpture, and decorative arts; significant artworks from China; ancient Antioch mosaics; and exquisite textiles from around the world. The 210,000- square-foot museum is also distinguished by a grand historic building designed in the 1920s by renowned American architect John Russell Pope and two beautifully landscaped gardens featuring an array of 20th-century sculpture. The BMA is located in Charles Village, three miles north of the Inner Harbor, and is adjacent to the main campus of Johns Hopkins University. General admission to the BMA is free so that everyone can enjoy the power of art.

VISITOR INFORMATION

General admission to the BMA is free. Special exhibitions may be ticketed. The BMA is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed Monday, Tuesday, New Year's Day, July 4, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The BMA is located at 10 Art Museum Drive, three miles north of Baltimore's Inner Harbor. For general museum information, call 443-573-1700 or visit artbma.org.

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Image: Diego Rivera. *Zapata*. 1932. The Baltimore Museum of Art: Gift of Blanche Adler. BMA 1932.28.5. © 2017 Diego Rivera/Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York/SOMAAP, Mexico