



VMFA

VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

**Mexico City:
Ancient & Modern Art**

October 16–21, 2017

**with Dr. Mitchell Merling,
*Paul Mellon Curator and Head of the Department
of European Art***

TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

SAMPLE internationally acclaimed cuisine at some of Mexico City's best restaurants

ENJOY a cocktail reception and after-hours tour at the Palace of Fine Arts

EXPLORE Aztec and Mayan masterpieces with a curator on an after-hours tour of the Museum of Anthropology

MARVEL at the European masterworks in the Museo Soumaya and at the Júmex Collection, the largest private contemporary art collection in Latin America

DISCOVER Cuernavaca, a well-preserved colonial city that is lately drawing attention for its bold contemporary buildings

TRAVELING WITH YOU



Dr. Mitchell Merling, Paul Mellon Curator and Head of the Department of European Art, has been with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts since 2005. He previously served as Curator at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art and Curator of European Art at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. In 2013, he published a major section of the Francesco

Guardi catalogue for the exhibition at the Museo Correr, Venice. In 2014, Dr. Merling published *Catching Sight: The World of the British Sporting Print*, and in 2015, he co-authored *Working Among Flowers: Floral Still-Life Painting in Nineteenth-Century France*. At VMFA, Dr. Merling oversees the Mellon collections of French, British Sporting, and American art, as well as the general European collections from the Middle Ages to the late 19th century.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 16: U.S. DEPARTURE / MEXICO CITY

Arrive in the late afternoon and transfer to the Hotel Carlota, located near the Paseo de la Reforma, where hip stores and cutting-edge architecture line the streets. Our first visit is an after-hours tour of the Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL), Mexico's premier fine arts museum. Depart for a welcome dinner at Azul Histórico, the latest creation from famed chef Ricardo Muñoz Zurita. D

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17: MEXICO CITY

Begin the day at the city's Centro Histórico. See evidence of the epic clash between the Aztecs and the Spanish on a walk through the Zócalo (main plaza), where the ruins of the Aztecs' Templo Mayor at Tenochtitlan abut the Metropolitan Cathedral. At the National Palace, admire Diego Rivera's mural masterpiece, *The Epic of the Mexican People*, and see his earliest works, painted in the 1920s, at the exquisite Antiguo Colegio San Ildefonso. Lunch is at El Mayor, overlooking the Templo Mayor. After a guided tour of the Franz Mayer Museum, home to Latin America's largest collection of decorative arts, conclude at the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, whose architecture reflects Mexico's pre-Columbian, Spanish Colonial, and independent "mestizo" periods. B,L

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18: MEXICO CITY

Explore the famed Casa Luis Barragán, home and studio of the Pritzker Prize-winning architect, on a private, before-hours visit (pending confirmation). Drive to the main campus of UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico), for a walking tour of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, which combines 20th-century modernism with pre-Hispanic references. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MUAC), a 2008 addition to the campus, is a special highlight. After lunch at the landmark San Angel Inn, visit the Diego and Frida Studios across the street, designed as a home and work space for Diego Rivera and his wife, Frida Kahlo, by architect Juan O'Gorman. An after-hours visit with cocktails has been arranged at the Palace of Fine Arts, to take in its stunning neoclassical exterior and Art Deco interior. Dinner is at a nearby restaurant. B,L,R,D



Zócalo, photo by Jesus M. Hernandez



Museum of Anthropology, photo by Bencito the Traveller (left) and UNAM, photo by Kara Newhouse (right)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19: MEXICO CITY

Spend the morning at Museo Soumaya, home to the extensive private collection of telecommunications magnate Carlos Slim, to view works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Rodin, Miró, da Vinci, and Matisse. After lunch continue to the Júmex Collection, designed by David Chipperfield and boasting impressive contemporary international art. The centerpiece of the building's interior is a circular stairwell of polished concrete walls lined with matte black steel panels. Conclude with an exclusive, after-hours curatorial tour of the Museum of Anthropology, devoted to the Aztec, Maya, and other pre-Hispanic civilizations and designed by mid-century master Pedro Ramírez Vázquez. B,L

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20: MEXICO CITY / CUERNAVACA

Drive to nearby Cuernavaca, a well-preserved colonial city that is drawing attention lately for its contemporary architecture. Discover the La Tallera Siqueiros Museum, the former home and studio of muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros and a showcase for contemporary Mexican art. Two façades, covered by enormous murals, create a fracture inside the complex, opening it up to the outside while creating connections with the surrounding urban fabric. Also visit the new Teopanzolco Auditorium, whose triangular shape echoes that of the Aztec pyramid across from it. Following lunch see the Barrancas House (pending confirmation) and other innovative buildings before returning to our hotel. The remainder of the afternoon is at leisure before we gather for our farewell dinner. B,L,D

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21: MEXICO CITY / U.S. RETURN

Enjoy a morning walk through the colonial-style San Angel neighborhood and browse in the Saturday bazaar at the Jardín del Arte. Continue to the airport for return flights home. B,L

DISCLAIMER: *This itinerary is subject to change at the discretion of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and Arrangements Abroad. For complete details, please carefully read the terms and conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms.*

La Tallera Siqueiros Museum, photo by Diario de Morelos



ACCOMMODATIONS

HOTEL CARLOTA

On a quiet street in the heart of the historic and eclectic Colonia Cuauhtémoc neighborhood, the Hotel Carlota is a boutique hotel with 36 sleek, stylish rooms, each featuring unique artwork by contemporary Mexican artists. On-property amenities include a glass-walled swimming pool, acclaimed restaurant, and bicycles for guests to borrow.



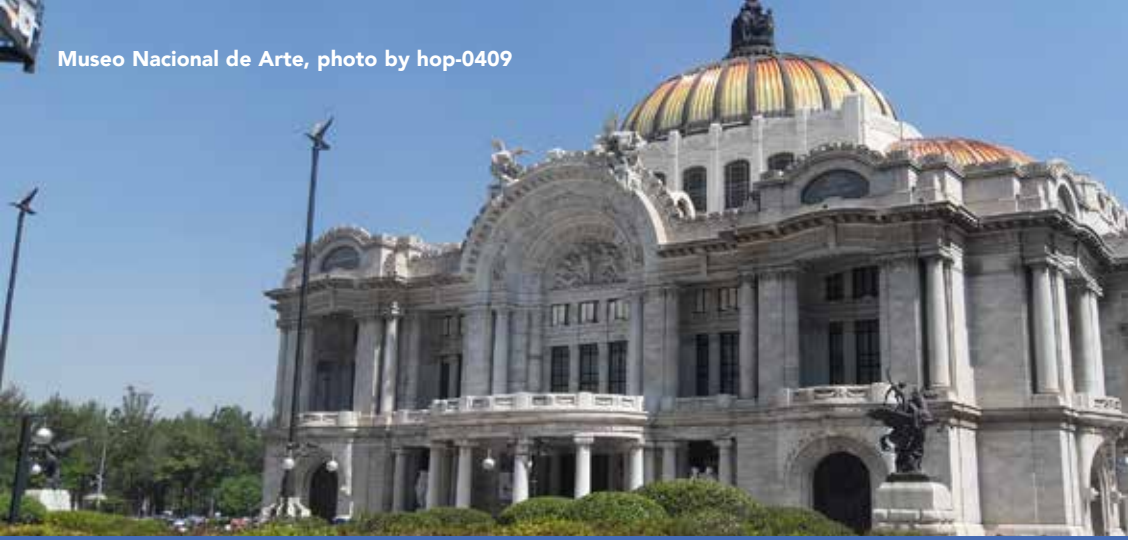
The Epic of the Mexican People mural by Diego Rivera, National Palace, photo by Chris Arts

PROGRAM RATE per person / double occupancy \$5,495
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT \$550

RATE INCLUDES

- Five nights accommodations in Mexico City at Hotel Carlota
- Meals as indicated in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner, R=Reception). Bottled water and coffee/tea with all meals; wine at dinners
- Escorted sightseeing, transportation, and entrance fees for all included visits
- Airport/hotel group transfers for all participants on suggested flights
- Gratuities to local guides and drivers
- Taxes, service charges, portage

NOT INCLUDED IN RATE International airfare; passport fees; meals not specified; alcoholic beverages other than wine at dinners; personal items and expenses; airport transfers other than for those on suggested flights; trip insurance; any other items not specifically mentioned as included.



**VIRGINIA MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS
MEXICO CITY • OCTOBER 16–21, 2017
RESERVATION FORM**

To secure your reservation, please call Academic Arrangements Abroad at 800-221-1944; or complete this form and return it with your deposit of \$1,000 (of which \$350 is non-refundable for administrative fees), to be paid by debit or credit card, wire transfer, or check payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*, 1040 Avenue of the Americas, 23rd Floor, New York, NY 10018-3721.

Name(s) in full as on passport(s). Please print.

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (home) (business)

Fax E-mail

ACCOMMODATIONS

Hotel Room Preference One bed Two beds Single

I wish to share a room with

FORM OF PAYMENT

Enclosed is my check (payable to *Academic Arrangements Abroad*) Debit card Credit card

Name on debit/credit card

Debit/credit card number

3- or 4-digit security code Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We have read, understand and agree to the Terms & Conditions at www.arrangementsabroad.com/terms and detailed in forthcoming program documents. I/We agree to full payment 120 days prior to departure.

Signature (required) Date

Signature (required) Date

VMFA

Dear Friends,

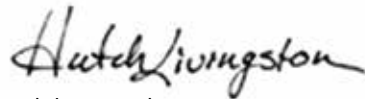
Mexico City—with her powerful murals, first-rate museums, and bold contemporary buildings—has become a world-class destination for art and design. Next October, please join **Dr. Mitchell Merling, Paul Mellon Curator and Head of the Department of European Art**, to spend five privileged days in this dynamic capital, discovering her modern and contemporary works as well as her awe-inspiring pre-Columbian past.

Stay in the upscale Colonia Cuauhtémoc neighborhood at the Hotel Carlota, which *The New York Times* called “a temple to high design.” View two extraordinary private collections: the Museo Soumaya, housing Carlos Slim’s trove of works by Picasso and other European masters; and the Júmex Collection, said to be the largest contemporary art collection in Latin America. Enjoy an after-hours tour of the country’s premier fine arts museum and an exclusive curatorial visit to the Museum of Anthropology. Enter major buildings throughout the city to admire masterworks by *los tres grandes*—Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, and José Clemente Orozco. Visit the home and studios of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera, designed by Juan O’Gorman, and tour the campus of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

A special highlight of this program is an excursion to nearby Cuernavaca, a well-preserved colonial city that is becoming known for contemporary architecture. There will also be opportunities to sample internationally acclaimed cuisine at some of Mexico City’s best restaurants.

We hope you will join us for this immersion in the art, design, and culture of this exciting destination.

Sincerely,



Adele “Hutch” Livingston
Coordinator of Member Travel



Casa Luis Barragán, photo by Steve Silverman

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