

**Exhibition:** *Rufino Tamayo: Innovation and Experimentation*  
**On View:** December 21, 2019–July 11, 2020 | Saturdays, 1–4 pm  
**Location:** Charles White Elementary School |  
2401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057



Image captions on page 3

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Rufino Tamayo: Innovation and Experimentation*. Rufino Tamayo (1899–1991) was a leading Mexican artist of the 20th century who achieved international acclaim. Though he was known primarily for his paintings and murals, he also created a robust body of works on paper, which provided an important avenue for formal and technical innovation. Drawn exclusively from LACMA’s holdings, the exhibition highlights Tamayo’s engagement with printmaking and also includes a selection of Mesoamerican sculpture (an important source of inspiration for the artist) from the museum’s collection. Spanning over 60 years of his prolific career, *Rufino Tamayo: Innovation and Experimentation* focuses on Tamayo’s longstanding interest in prints as a means of exploring new techniques and furthering experimentation. On view December 21, 2019–July 11, 2020, the exhibition is presented at LACMA’s art gallery at Charles White Elementary School. The exhibition is curated by Rachel Kaplan, LACMA’s assistant curator of Latin American art.

As part of the exhibition, Los Angeles-based artist Raul Baltazar will be working with the Charles White Elementary School students on a collaborative art installation inspired by Tamayo’s artwork. The installation will be a work in progress through the end of the 2019–20 school year. Baltazar is an alumnus of Otis College of Art and Design, formerly located at what is now Charles White Elementary School.

## About the Exhibition

Tamayo is perhaps best known as a painter and muralist; however, he was also deeply interested in experimenting with prints and finding a way to add volume and texture to a traditionally two-dimensional medium. A unifying thread in the exhibition is Tamayo's depictions of the human figure, which became progressively more abstract as he developed what he described as a universal art. Drawn exclusively from LACMA's collection, the exhibition features 20 works on paper by Tamayo—including two watercolors and 18 prints—and five Mesoamerican sculptures.

Tamayo actively collected art from the ancient Americas. He amassed more than 1,300 Mesoamerican works, which now belong to the Museo de Arte Prehispánico de México Rufino Tamayo in Oaxaca. The exhibition features five comparable objects from LACMA's collection, demonstrating the artist's fascination with this material throughout his long career.

An introductory gallery provides a brief overview of Tamayo's career, beginning with early woodcuts from the 1920s and extending to his large mural size print *Two Personages Attacked by Dogs* (1983). The works in this section highlight his relationship with the Mexican mural movement, his Zapotec heritage, and his initial engagement with printmaking. A small selection of Mesoamerican figurines, similar to those that were a source of formal inspiration for Tamayo's art, are also featured.

The following galleries feature etchings, lithographs, and Mixografía prints (a new mixed process that allowed the artist to introduce volume and texture to his prints) created in the 1960s–80s. Throughout his career, Tamayo created over 350 prints, collaborating with workshops in the United States, Mexico, and Europe as he achieved increasing international acclaim. He developed a relationship with Los Angeles, first through a residency at Tamarind Lithography Workshop and later through the Taller de Gráfica Mexicana, which relocated from Mexico City to Los Angeles as the Mixografía Workshop Gallery in the early 1980s. Works in these galleries focus on his exploration of various print processes, leading to his collaboration with the Taller de Gráfica Mexicana and the development of the Mixografía technique. Digital photographs and a video projection provide a behind-the-scenes look at the making of Tamayo's Mixografía prints.

A final gallery will be dedicated to the student installation created in collaboration between Charles White Elementary School students and Raul Baltazar.

An accompanying Collator publication, *Rufino Tamayo: The Essential Figure*, will feature a selection of Tamayo works from LACMA's collection (many included in the exhibition), and will be available at [collator.lacma.org](http://collator.lacma.org).

### **Charles White Elementary School Gallery**

2401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Open to the public on Saturday afternoons, 1–4 pm; free admission.

### **Exhibition Related Programming**

Opening Celebration | Thursday, January 16, 2020

6–8pm | Free, tickets required

TamaYoga, Saturday, January 25, 2020

1–2 pm | Participate in a yoga session inspired by works on view in the exhibition led by artist Teresa Flores with Rebecca Plevin, certified yoga instructor and reporter covering immigration and the California-Mexico border. Learn about the artist's life and work through embodied movement. All are welcome and variations will be provided for every skill level. Please bring a yoga mat. Space is limited, RSVP required.

Connections Across Centuries: Rufino Tamayo, Raul Baltazar and the Ancient Americas, Saturday, February 29, 2020

1–2 pm | Rufino Tamayo (1899–1991), an internationally renowned Mexican artist of the 20th century, often drew inspiration from Mesoamerican art in the creation of modern figures. Hear more about Tamayo's interest in the ancient Americas from museum educator Eduardo Sánchez and local artist Raul Baltazar, whose own practice looks to Mesoamerican culture. Baltazar is working with the students of Charles White Elementary on an original installation responding to the art in *Rufino Tamayo: Innovation and Experimentation*. The conversation will be moderated by exhibition curator Rachel Kaplan.

Additional public programs and art workshops will take place on select Saturdays. Please visit [lacma.org](http://lacma.org) for the latest information on related programming.

**Credit:** This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

### **About LACMA**

Located on the Pacific Rim, LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection of nearly 142,000 objects that illuminate 6,000 years of artistic expression across the globe. Committed to showcasing a multitude of art histories, LACMA exhibits and interprets works of art from new and unexpected points of view that are informed by the region's rich cultural heritage and diverse population. LACMA's spirit of

experimentation is reflected in its work with artists, technologists, and thought leaders as well as in its regional, national, and global partnerships to share collections and programs, create pioneering initiatives, and engage new audiences.

**Location:** 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. [lacma.org](http://lacma.org)

**Images caption:** (Left): Rufino Tamayo, *Man with Tall Hat (Hombre con sombrero alto)*, c. 1930, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bernard and Edith Lewin Collection of Mexican Art, © 2019 Tamayo Heirs/Mexico/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; (Left-center): Rufino Tamayo, *The Personage (El personaje)*, 1975, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, gift of the Graphic Arts Council, © 2019 Tamayo Heirs/Mexico/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; (Right-center): Rufino Tamayo, *Trembling Woman (Mujer temblorosa)*, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bernard and Edith Lewin Collection of Mexican Art, © 2019 Tamayo Heirs/Mexico/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA; (Right): Rufino Tamayo, *Man with Open Arms [The Preacher] (Hombre con brazos abiertos [El predicador])*, 1984, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Bernard and Edith Lewin Collection of Mexican Art, © 2019 Tamayo Heirs/Mexico/Licensed by VAGA at Artists Rights Society (ARS), NY, photo © Museum Associates/LACMA

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