

CALL FOR PAPERS

MEXICAN ART GOES GLOBAL

Tracing Artistic Connections During the Iron Curtain Era

In 1955, the Frente Nacional de Artes Plásticas organized a landmark exhibition of Mexican art in Warsaw, featuring *The Wounded Table* (1940), Frida Kahlo's largest painting. Shortly thereafter, the painting mysteriously disappeared, and it remains lost to this day. Beyond this compelling mystery, the period witnessed rich yet underexplored artistic exchanges between Mexican and Eastern European artists. Building on the pioneering scholarship of Piotr Piotrowski, this conference seeks to investigate these intercultural connections. Piotrowski argued that, unlike socialist realism, which was promoted by communist regimes but not universally embraced, Mexican art possessed a "global character" due to its origins on a "distant continent." Nevertheless, he also noted the challenges of situating Mexican art within the rigid frameworks of socialist realism. This conference will further examine and discuss Piotrowski's insights on the global dimension of Mexican art.

The conference will be held in Wrocław, a city marking an early chapter in Polish-Mexican cultural exchange. In 1948, Leopold Méndez, co-founder of the Taller de Gráfica Popular, attended the Congress of Intellectuals in Wrocław. Simultaneously, the group's graphic art circulated widely in Poland, influencing the local artistic scene.

Proposals should include a title and an abstract of up to 300 words. Please also include full contact information (name, mailing address, and email) and a short CV (maximum 200 words). Submit paper proposals by January 31, 2025, to karolina.zychowicz@uwr.edu.pl

We look forward to submissions that illuminate these vital artistic dialogues and deepen our understanding of Mexican art's impact during the Iron Curtain era.



José Guadalupe Posada, *La Calavera Catrina*, 1913

We invite papers that address the following themes, among others:

Exhibitions by the Frente Nacional de Artes Plásticas (1952–1962) in Eastern Europe and the USSR

Artivism: leftist, politically engaged art in Western Europe and Asia inspired by Mexican art

Mexican murals in Eastern Europe

Protest art of 1968 in Mexico and Eastern Europe

Official versus unofficial artistic exchange during the Cold War

Mexican artists in Eastern Europe and Eastern European artists in Mexico

Comparison of feminist ideas in Mexican art and Eastern European Art

Conference Details:

Date
May 22-23, 2025

Location
**Institute of Art History
University of Wrocław, Poland**