

Google Arts & Culture

Learn Together: Latino Art and Artists



Using the lesson plan and Google Arts & Culture resources

This lesson plan is designed to support you as you explore Google Arts & Culture stories and exhibits related to the lesson topic. The images you will see here are just a sample of the media—texts, images, audio, and video—available to you on the Google Arts & Culture website. A parent or teacher might be guiding you through the lesson, or you might choose to complete it on your own.

All you need to access the lesson is an internet connection and a web browser. You may want to take notes, whether you do that digitally or with paper and pen.

The lesson plan has an **introduction**, which will describe the topic and provide some background information that will help you understand what you are seeing, hearing, and reading. Then the lesson will take you on a journey from one **Story** or **Exhibit** to another, fill in some details along the way, and pose **questions** that will help you focus on important ideas. Some lesson plans include a **project** related to the lesson topic. All end with a **quiz** and some **ideas for exploring the topic further**.

The lesson plan includes **questions** about the main stories and exhibits, and there is also a **quiz**. You will want to write answers to the questions in a notebook or on a piece of paper. Then you can check all your answers when you've finished the lesson.

Resources on the Google Arts & Culture website include Themes, Stories, Museum Views, items, and images.

- ❖ **Themes** bring together stories, exhibits, collections, images, audio, and video files that relate to a topic.
- ❖ In a **Story**, clicking on the arrow on the right side of a slide will move you forward. The arrow on the left side takes you back. Sometimes, clicking on the right arrow will zoom you in on an image. Just keep clicking to keep moving forward. Audio and videos on slides will play automatically. Clicking on an image title will take you to a page with more information about it.
- ❖ In **Museum Views**, you move through a 3D space. Click to move forward. Click, hold, and move the cursor left or right to turn.
- ❖ An **item** will take you to an individual **image**, where you can zoom in and sometimes read more about the artefact.



The Posadas (Las posadas), Carmen Lomas Garza 2000
National Museum of Mexican Art

In this lesson, you will learn about:

- ❖ the diverse styles of Latino artists and the diverse media in which they work.
- ❖ how Latino artists combine fine art with decorative, folk, conceptual, and performance art.
- ❖ how artists both conserve and create Latino cultural identity.

You will:

- ❖ view some stories and exhibits about Latino art and artists.
- ❖ answer some questions about what you have seen and read.

This lesson will take **30–45 minutes** to complete.



Learn Together: Latino Artists and Art

Latino artists are heirs to vast artistic wealth. The master painters of Spain's Golden Age, such as El Greco, Murillo, and Velasquez, transformed fine art painting in Europe and extended their influence into the Spanish and Portuguese colonies. Europe and Africa also exported fine handicrafts, such as ceramics, woodcarving, and ironworking, to the Americas. Skilled Native American artists and artisans, many of them trained by European priests, decorated Latin American churches, palaces, and plazas.

Artists from Mexico reached Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California in the 16th and 17th centuries. On this remote colonial frontier, skilled artisans worked in adobe, clay, wood, and fiber to build houses, decorate churches, and create simple but beautiful objects for everyday use. In the 1820s, trade with the United States brought new art influences into the region. A century later, more waves of inspiration came from the artists of the Mexican Revolution and from New York artists who moved to the Southwest.

Today's Latino artists have joined the global art scene. Their work appears in major museums and inspires artists around the world. Like their Baroque ancestors, Latino artists are creating a wealth of art to pass on to future generations.

As you view the exhibits and stories in this lesson, think about these questions:

- ❖ What colors, lines, shapes, images, words, and sounds appear in the art?
- ❖ In what media do the artists work?
- ❖ How do the artists express their Latino identity?



¡Aquí Estamos: The Heart of Arte!

This exhibit's title states its themes. "Aquí estamos" is Spanish for "Here we are." *Arte* and *heart* share letters and sounds, although they are in two languages. The works of art in the exhibit reveal that Latino artists are deeply rooted in lands that are now part of the United States and that art is at the heart of Latino life, which is bilingual and multicultural. In the exhibit, you will meet 25 Latino artists working in many styles and media, including a master woodcarver who carried Latino culture into the world of modern art.

Click [here](#) to learn about vibrant art by Latino artists.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. What state do most of the artists in this online exhibit come from? What other places do the artists represent?
2. What materials did the artists use to make their work? Identify at least three media that you saw in the exhibit. Write or sketch brief descriptions of the works of art.
3. What messages did the artists convey in their work? Select at least two artists to analyze. Explain how the works express the artists' points of view.

To learn about Patrocínio Barela, a Latino pioneer of modern art, click [here](#).



[The Magic Room](#), Patssi Valdez 1994
UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center

Patssi Valdez: Retrospective of Media

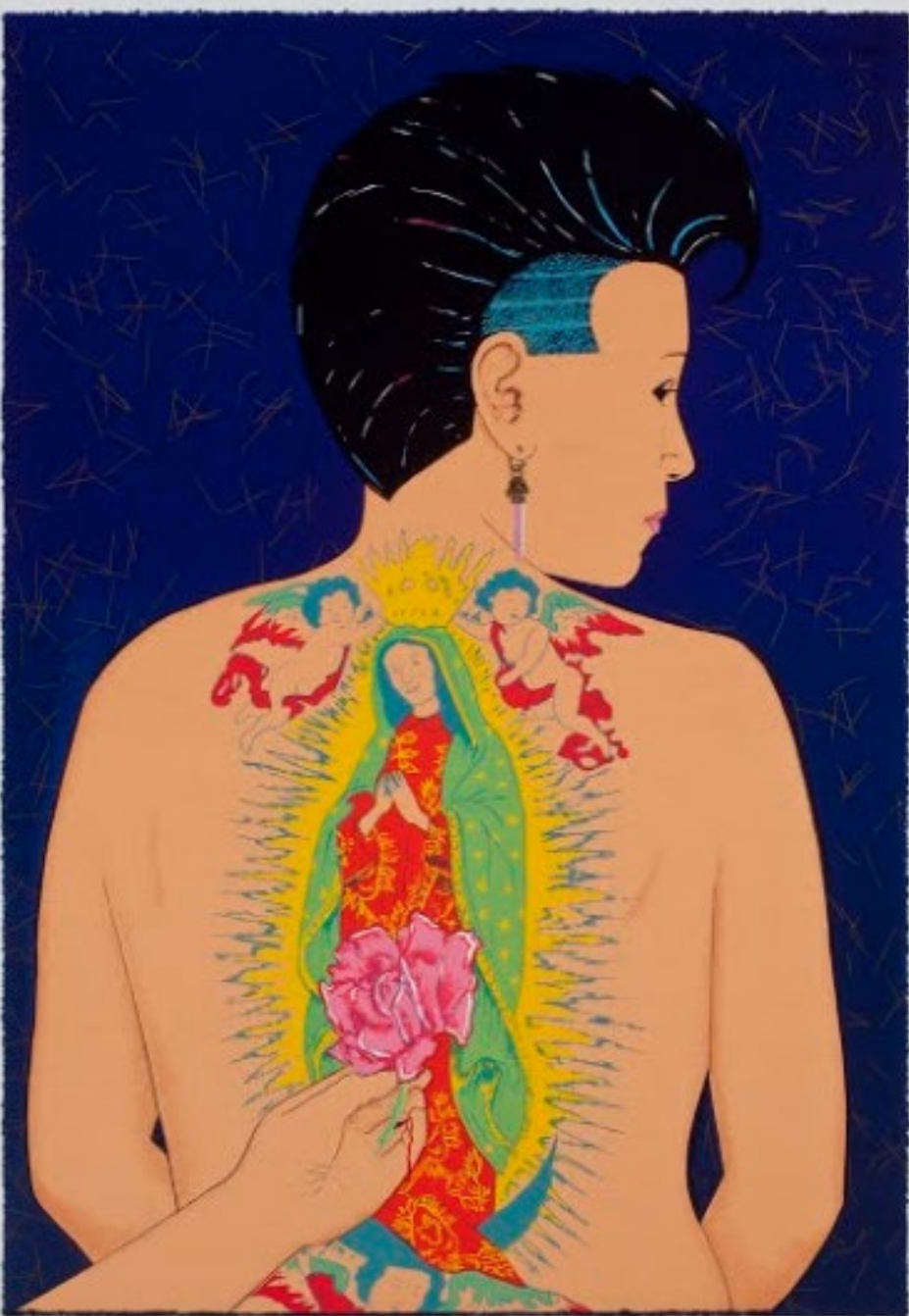
Patssi Valdez makes art that is full of energy, bright colors, bold lines, and unusual perspectives. Valdez is mostly known for her paintings, but she has worked in many media, including printmaking, collage, and performance art. Her art has been seen on national television and at the Latin Grammys and the Alma Awards. Works by Valdez are included in the permanent collections of the Smithsonian National Museum of American Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and other major museums.

Click [here](#) to experience the energy in the work of Patssi Valdez.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. In what years did Patssi Valdez create the works of art in this exhibit?
2. What people, objects, and images appear in the paintings of Patssi Valdez? Describe at least two paintings from the exhibit, using words or sketches.
3. How has Patssi Valdez's art changed over the course of her career? Include descriptions or sketches of at least two works of art in your answer.

To learn about Frank Romero, another Chicano artist, click [here](#).



The Alter, Ester Hernandez 1988, National Museum of Mexican Art

Nuestras Historias: Mexico in the US

The world of Latino art, like the larger Latino community, is dominated by Mexican Americans. Over 60 percent of Latinos are of Mexican descent. Mexican Americans are most heavily concentrated in the Southwest, the region once ruled by Mexico. But there are also large Mexican communities in Chicago, Atlanta, and other major cities. Wherever they live, Mexican Americans make art that reflects their bilingual and bicultural identities. Artists celebrate their Mexican heritage and establish a strong Mexican presence in general American culture.

Click [here](#) to learn about the work of Mexican American artists.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. Name at least two artists whose work appeared in this exhibition. What do these artists have in common?
2. What scenes and images from Mexico or Mexican culture did the artists include in their works of art?
3. What do you think the artists are trying to express about being Mexican Americans? Refer to the work of at least three artists in your answer.

To learn about contemporary Mexican art, a strong influence on Mexican American artists, click [here](#).



A Stitch in Time: Ghost Variations, Guerra de la Paz 2016
Art Works for Change

De Muchos, Uno / E Pluribus Unum

Women beat the floor with brooms in a ritual of remembrance. A pile of old clothes grows into a rainbow mountain. A musician performs on instruments he builds from discarded objects, including toys. One sculptor builds massive forms from concrete, while another uses fine wire and crystals. In this exhibit, you'll meet eight artists who take art beyond its traditional boundaries. They combine art with photography, dance, and music to express themselves in unusual ways and to change other people's views of the world. They are Latino artists exploring new frontiers.

Click [here](#) to learn about Latino artists who expand the definition of art.

Then come back to answer these questions:

1. Name an artist whose work appears in this exhibit and describe the work.
2. How do the artists use costumes, ritual, music, and dance to express themselves? Write or sketch a description of one of the performances.
3. Why did the artists create their works as they did? Select one of the art works in the exhibit. Identify the artist's purpose(s) in making the painting or performance piece. Use details from the art to support your inferences.

Quiz

Read the questions and write your answers in your notebook or on a piece of paper.

1. What is a tinsmith?
2. Who was the woodcarver whose work was exhibited at New York's Museum of Modern Art (MOMA) in 1934?
3. How did Patssi Valdez begin her art career?
4. Into what art medium does Patssi Valdez sometimes insert self-portraits?
5. Where is the National Museum of Mexican art located?
6. What do the artists Jeffry D. Scott, Antonio Perez, and Elsa Munoz have in common?
7. What is performance art?
8. What materials and techniques does the Cuban group Guerra de la Paz use to create performance art?

Explore Further

This lesson has introduced you to Latino artists around the United States and to the exciting art they create. To learn more about Latino artists, click [here](#) and scroll down to the section "Explore more Latino artists."



Downtown LA, Patssi Valdez 1987
UCLA Chicano Studies Resource Center

It's Your Turn!

In this lesson, you learned about some Latino artists and how they create art in various media. Now it's your turn to do something. Here are some ideas for multimedia projects you can do at home or in the classroom.

- ❖ **Make a collage.** You'll need heavy paper, poster board, or cardboard for a base. Cut out images and words from newspapers, magazines, and greeting cards and glue them to the board. Use paint or markers to add bright colors and verbal messages. How will your collage express your view of the world? What ideas do you want viewers to understand?
- ❖ **Make an assemblage.** An assemblage is a collage in 3-D! You can make art from almost any objects. Check your recycling bin first. Look for bright colors, unusual textures and surfaces, and materials that are easy to cut, shape, and glue. String and tape are great for tying objects together and hanging them from each other. Small items such as buttons and bottle caps are useful for creating patterns on surfaces. You'll never look at your trash in the same way again!

Answers

¡Aquí Estamos: The Heart of Arte!

1. New Mexico; Cuba, Brazil, Minnesota, Mexico, Illinois, Washington, California
2. The exhibition contains examples of paintings, ceramics, comics, recycled art, spray painting on metal, tinsmithing, printmaking, collage, and woodcarving.
3. Answers will vary. Details from the art should support the writer's analysis.

Patssi Valdez: Retrospective of Media

1. The exhibit displays works dating from 1972 to 2003.
2. Answers will vary but should be supported by visual or verbal details.
3. Valdez began work as a public artist, but over the years her work became more private and personal. She also switched from performance art and collage to painting.

Nuestras Historias: Mexico in the US

1. Answers will vary. Artists in the exhibit include Carmen Lomas Garza, Xavier Viramontes, Ester Hernandez, Jeffry D. Scott, Antonio Perez, Carlos A. Cortez, Laura Molina, Glugio Nicandro (Gronk), Cesar Augusto Martinez, Elsa Munoz, Oscar Moya, Ana Teresas Fernandez, Rene Hugo Arceo, Jose Esquivel, Marcos Raya, Frank Ybarra, Fidencio Duran, Vincent Valdez, John M. Valadez, Alejandro Romero, and Patssi Valdez.
2. Answers will vary. Objects include skulls, religious images, and Mexican celebrations.
3. Answers will vary. Details from the art should support the analysis.

De Muchos, Uno / E Pluribus Unum

1. Answers will vary. Artists in the exhibit include Antonio Briceño, Cecilia Paredes, Susan Plum, Guerra de la Paz (Alain Guerra and Neraldo de la Paz), Guillermo Galindo, Ruben Ochoa, Enrique Chagoya, and Soledad Salame.
2. Answers will vary. Details from the art should support the description.
3. Answers will vary. Details from the art should support the analysis.

Quiz

1. A tinsmith is an artisan who creates objects by hammering tin into various shapes.
2. Patrocinio Barela
3. Valdez began her career by making performance art with an art collective called Asco.
4. Valdez has inserted self-portraits into some of her collages.
5. The National Museum of Mexican art is located in Chicago, Illinois.
6. Jeffry D. Scott, Antonio Perez, and Elsa Munoz are photographers.
7. Performance art is art that is performed for the camera or for a live audience, often combining art objects with movement, dance, and music.
8. The Cuban group Guerra de la Paz uses old clothes, videography, and animation to create their performance art.