

THE JOHN GASTON FAIREY COLLECTION OF

MEXICAN FOLK ART: an introduction



Joaquín Hernández Vasquez, *Zapotec Jaguar*, hand carved wood with paint, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas
Cover: Nahua People, *Nahua Lacquered Gourd*, gourd and paint, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas

This exhibition is generously funded, in part, by an award from the Mamie McFaddin Ward Heritage Foundation, Texas Commission on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, Lee Ann and Terry Garth, the City of Beaumont, the Wesley W. Washburn, M.D. and Lulu L. Smith, M.D. Endowment Fund and the C. Homer and Edith Fuller Chambers Charitable Foundation.



John Fairey has made outstanding contributions to the science and art of gardening: in garden design and horticulture; plant exploration, as well as distribution; and plant conservation and education. His garden, Peckerwood Garden in Hempstead, Texas, is widely recognized for the originality of its design, the depth of its collection, and its potential to foster education and conservation.

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"The John Gaston Fairey Collection of Mexican Folk Art," given in memory of my parents, Isabel and Philip Fairey, who introduced me to the wonders of Mexico.

The majority of the pieces in the collection were purchased from individual artists and galleries in Mexico between 1988 and the present. I have concentrated the collection on contemporary works, but if an outstanding early piece was available and affordable, I from time to time added these pieces to the collection. At my home in Hempstead, there were approximately 200 pieces on display in a small two-story gallery space adjoining my office and home.



Pedro Hernandez Cruz, *Judas Figure*, papier-mâché, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas



Leonardo Espinosa Gutierrez, *Old Man with Flora and Fauna on Back*, carved wood, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas

Several of these objects consist of more than one piece, for example, works by Carlomagno Pedro Martínez are made up of numerous pieces. The works on display were my personal favorites and were frequently rotated as new pieces arrived, or stored objects became relevant. Many outstanding objects were held in on-site storage. I also collected Mexican textiles.

There are many exceptional works by unknown artists, and many of these objects were only acquired after multiple visits to the artist's home in remote and hard to locate sites. The collection also contains examples of artwork by several of the artists published in *Great Masters of Mexican Folk Art*, Fomento Cultural Banamex, A.C., 1998, including:

- Juan Jorge Wilmot Mason
- Alberto Bautista Gómez
- Elena Felipe and Bernardina Rivera
- Ester Medina Hernández
- Emilio Molinero Hurtado
- Gorky González Quiñones
- Adrián Luis González
- Salvador Vázquez Carmona
- Carlomagno Pedro Martínez
- Tiburcio Soleno Fernández
- Francisco Coronel Navarro
- Leandro Espinosa Guliérrez
- Ex-hacienda de Bernárdez
- Arnulfo Mendoza Ruiz
- Manuela Cecilia Lino
- Felipe and Leonardo Linares
- Delfino and Timoteo López Godínez



Herón Martínez Mendoza, *Burnished Mother Pig*, clay, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas



Artist Unknown, *Biblical Scenes*, painted clay, Permanent Collection, Art Museum of Southeast Texas

There are complex ceramic figures by Angélica Vasquez Cruz, including *Mexican Revolution* (published in *Mexican Folk Art From Oaxacan Artist Families*, Arden Aibel Rothstein and Anya Leah Rothstein, 2007, p. 25). Also included are seven major installations by Carlomagno Pedro Martínez. The largest of these groups depicts the History of the 1910 Revolution in the State of Oaxaca, and contains 64 figures. There are several other published works in the collection.

John G. Fairey
November 29, 2017