

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53RD STREET, NEW YORK

TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MUSEUM HOURS: May 15 through May 29, 1947

Weekdays, including Saturday, 10 A.M. to 10 P.M.

Sundays, 12 Noon to 10 P.M.

Admission price 25 cents, includes admission to
motion picture program every day at 4 P.M.

LARGE EXHIBITION OF MEXICAN ART IN FINAL PREPARATION AT MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

The most elaborate and varied installation the Museum of Modern Art has ever given any exhibition is now in its final stages of preparation in the glass-walled building at 11 West 53 Street. John McAndrew, Curator of the Museum's Department of Architecture, has designed the installation both in the Museum and in the garden and is supervising its arrangement.

The several thousand objects in the exhibition of Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art will be shown not only on the floor space and walls of the three exhibition floors of the Museum but will be suspended from the ceilings above the staircase and will even overflow into the sculpture garden on the 54th Street side of the building.

The garden has been extensively redesigned. Many new trees and plants have been added and there will be patches of green myrtle on the pebbled surface of the garden which, incidentally, has been made much easier to walk on as the pebbles have been rolled into hard clay. Seven new pavilions of plywood on natural cedar posts have been built. The plywood is stained a rich Indian red-brown. For walls the pavilions will have Mexican straw raincoats. For additional shade about the garden there are Indian sunshades made of canvas stretched on wooden crosses at the top of cedar poles.

Contemporary pottery of great variety and from many parts of Mexico will be shown in the garden in the little pavilions and also set about in the open air on the pebbles. In some pavilions are displayed sarapes, sombreros, huaraches and other objects of native apparel.

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About twenty-five pieces of the larger Pre-Spanish sculpture will be shown in the garden. These will be statues of ancient Mexican gods and goddesses. Early stone carvings of jaguars and serpents will lie on the pebbles.

One of the most spectacular objects within the Museum will be a huge "Judas." This^{is} made of paper on a split bamboo frame twelve feet in height and topped by an enormous paper sombrero. These "Judas" figures are made for Holy Saturday in Mexico and are suspended over the streets of cities and towns. On the day before Easter the huge figures are blown up by setting off the fireworks. The figures do not always represent Judas; sometimes they are political effigies, sometimes fantastic native figures. The "Judas" figure to be shown in the Museum will be suspended in the stairway high above the heads of visitors to the Museum. Although the figure will have its usual complement of fireworks these will not be shot off.

Other objects to be shown in unusual fashion in the exhibition Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art will be costumes. These will be invisibly suspended: the hats will float above the dress and the shoes will be placed properly beneath as though worn by an invisible person.

There will be a preview of Twenty Centuries of Mexican Art for members and guests Tuesday, May 14, from eight-thirty P.M. until midnight. The exhibition will open to the public Wednesday, May 15, and will remain on view until the end of September. For the first two weeks of the exhibition the Museum will be open until ten o'clock every night, including Sundays, and will open every morning at ten except Sundays, when it will open at noon. During approximately the first two weeks of the exhibition an orchestral concert of Mexican music will be given in the auditorium at 2:30 P.M. and 8:30 P.M. The concert program, arranged and supervised by Carlos Chavez, Mexico's foremost composer and conductor, will trace the development of Mexican music from ancient times through the Colonial period, down to our own day.