



THE OFFICIAL MEXICAN
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FINE ARTS MUSEUM OF TEXAS

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MASKED

changing identities

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Masked: Changing Identities showcases Mexican dance and popular masks from the MexicArte Museum permanent collection highlighting the major donation of masks from Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Each selected mask's vibrant colors and designs reflect Mexican traditions of indigenous craftsmanship, mythic narratives, and dance rituals.

USES OF MASKS

Many of the masks in *Masked: Changing Identities* appear in ritual dances, festivals, and theater performances throughout Mexico. Some performances originated in certain regions of Mexico, became well-known, and are now performed throughout the country. Below, you will find examples of some of the dances that are performed while wearing masks:

The *Danza de los Viejitos* (Dance of the Old Men) originated in Michoacán (see map) but is known throughout Mexico. During this performance, dancers wear masks with the features of an old man and are often lighthearted and comical. This performance has its origin in indigenous traditions.

Las Danzas de los Moros y Cristianos (Dance of the Christians and the Moors) are prominent in Guerrero and are dramatic in nature. These dances tell about the conquest of Mexico. Characters often include Spanish soldiers and priests conquering the Aztecs and other Mexican indigenous groups.

To see examples of dances, please visit our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/officialmexicarte



As you make your way through the exhibition, imagine the performances in which these masks were used.

Then, come up with your own play or dance which includes your favorite mask or masks.

IMAGES FROM TOP TO BOTTOM:

Old Man Mask for Dance of the Old Men, Guerrero, Mexico, H: 11.5", The Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Collection, 2013, 2012.001.10
Mask for Moor & Christian Dance Drama, Puebla, Mexico, H: 7.75", The Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Collection, 2013, 2012.001.037

Early Mexican Mask collectors developed a classification system to categorize his large collection of masks. The basic classifications consisted of references to rendered imagery that was either anthropomorphic, zoomorphic, or phytomorphic.



MASK FORMS

Anthropomorphic These masks include human shapes & features.

Phytomorphic These masks have plant features & shapes.

Zoomorphic Animal elements appear in these masks.

Can you identify a mask in the exhibit that fits into more than one of the categories listed above?

DIFFERENT STYLES OF MASKS

Full Head Sits on the shoulders and covers the head completely

Face Mask Covering the face, usually ties around the head

Partial Face Masks Only covers a part of the face, sometimes is held by hand

Step-Ins Worn around the middle and the wearer must "step-in" the mask

Take notice of the different types of masks in the exhibit.
How might they be used differently?

IMAGES FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:

Mask for Dance of the Aztecs or Dance of the Mayans, Guerrero, Mexico, H: 16.5", The Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Collection, 2013, 2012.001.082

Neptune Mask for Dance of the Fisherman, Rio Balsas, Guerrero, Mexico, H: 17.25", The Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Collection, 2013, 2012.001.055

Mask for Dance of the Bats, Comala, Guerrero, Mexico, H: 18.5", The Patricia & Carmine De Vivi Collection, 2013, 2012.001.027

MATERIALS USED

Leather	Some artisans use leather for ties; others incorporate ornate leather work.
Metal	The use of ornamental metals is common, including hammered metals, metal wiring, tin and copper.
Wood	Wood is the most commonly used material and is often carved.
Organic Materials	Organic materials used include: teeth, whiskers, hair of boars, horses and other animals.
Paint & Pigment	All of the masks are hand painted by artisans.

Take notice of the different materials used in each mask.
Think about the materials & colors you would use
to create a mask of your own.

Take one of the mask activity sheets home with you
to create your own design using your favorite colors &
materials found in your home or outside.

MAP OF MEXICO

The masks in the Mexic-Arte Museum collection come mainly from Guerrero & Michoacán.



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS THAT MADE THIS EXHIBIT POSSIBLE:

This exhibit features the major donation of Patricia & Carmine De Vivi.

Special thanks to The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection,
University of Texas at Austin for their loan of several masks on view.

The
**Baxter
Trust**



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