

# Our voice

**M**exico's historical and cultural strength was clearly shown at the exhibition held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, from October 1990 to January 1991.

Representative samples were offered, in New York, of each of the periods making up our national history: the pre-Colombian era, stretching from the distant past until 1521, when the Spanish conquest ended the imperial rule of Moctezuma; the Viceregal period, running from 1521 to 1821, and producing three centuries of excellent Colonial art; the Independence period, from 1821 to the end of the 19th century, and the 20th century characterized by the art generated by the 1910 Mexican Revolution.

In Mexico City, this outstanding exhibition was staged at San Ildefonso College, which was built during the 16th century. The College corridors are filled with murals by Orozco, Revueltas, Siqueiros, Rivera. The Colonial architecture of the College, the 20th century murals, together with the exhibition itself, allow visitors to fully appreciate the testimony left by an exceptional culture, the product of the blending of native Mexican and European belief systems.

The Maya region has been considered the most developed of all pre-Hispanic

civilizations. The Mayas have been called "The Greeks of America". We now have the pleasure of presenting some travelers who have been astonished by the extraordinary remains of their civilization. The key factor is the survival of significant traits such as the Mayan language, which is still spoken on the Yucatan peninsula.

We end with a article on the reaction of the Mexican press to the recent elections in the United States. The change of governing party from George Bush, a Republican, to Bill Clinton, a Democrat, illustrates a profound generational change; a generation which now faces serious problems, such as the excessive indebtedness of the US and the ability to use the tools at its disposal, in order to revitalize the US economy.

Our Museum Series has the pleasure of introducing the most recent addition in this area: the José Luis Cuevas Museum, located in the Santa Inés Convent —built in the era of the Viceroy, and one of the most important undertakings of its kind. In this museum, one can admire Cuevas' works, together with examples of Contemporary Art and a wide variety of styles reflected in the collection which Cuevas has donated to the people of Mexico.

*Miguel Mancera, Director of the Bank of Mexico, received the Rey Juan Carlos Prize for Economics in Madrid, last November. This marked the first time that this prize has been awarded to a foreigner, allowing Mancera to take advantage of the occasion to present an excellent synthesis of the Mexican economy.*

*In this issue, it has been demonstrated that culture has no borders, and the Mexican culture, so deeply rooted in the past, constitutes an important contribution to the world.*

*Now, more than ever, in a world increasingly characterized by integration, people should be in greater touch with national culture. If we consider that sovereignty is largely based on and nourished by such notions, here in Mexico we should make a special effort to understand our country—a country which provides us with our specific identity, different from that of our northern neighbors* ❧

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Editorial Director.

