



Cecilia Salcedo

Francisco Toledo

Brief Biography

Francisco Toledo was born in Juchitán, Oaxaca. In 1940, after spending his early childhood in southern Veracruz, at the age of 12 he moved to Oaxaca where he began his artistic studies in Arturo García Bustos' engraving workshop. While still a young man, he moved yet again, this time to Mexico City, where he attended the Citadel School of Design and Crafts' engraving workshop.

In 1959, he had his first show at the Fort Worth Center in Texas and Mexico City's Antonio Souza Gallery. That same year he traveled to Europe, settling in Paris where he briefly joined William Hayter's atelier to study engraving. After withdrawing from formal studies, he spent his time looking at paintings in the museums of Europe, where he got his real education. After a 1963 showing at Karl Flinker's gallery, he decided to return to Mexico in 1965.

He works in different mediums including painting, water colors, sketching, sculpture and the tapestry design he does together with the weavers of Teotitlán del Valle in Oaxaca, as well as continuing his

work in graphics. He made several trips to New York, settling there in 1979, where he began to work in ceramics. When he returned to Mexico in 1980, he had a showing in Mexico City's Modern Art Museum, exemplifying the different techniques he has used. In 1984, he began a four year stay in Barcelona and Paris, where besides painting, he did a series of engravings for the Barcelona polygraph. In 1988, he went back to Oaxaca to live.

In recent years, this Zapotec artist has spent his time promoting and disseminating the arts and culture of his native state. He founded Ediciones Toledo, a publishing house, and created the Oaxaca Graphic Arts Institute, the Oaxaca Contemporary Art Museum, the Alvarez Bravo Center for Photography, the El Pochote Cinema Club and the Oaxaca Paper Art Workshop. He has also given his support to the protection and conservation of Oaxaca's historical and cultural patrimony through the Pro-Oax Foundation, as well as to ecological projects to protect Monte Albán and the Papaloapan River. ■■■