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# 100

Issues of

# VOICES of Mexico

One hundred issues. It's easy to say, but in addition to being a landmark number, it also implies a great deal. First of all, that *Voices of Mexico* is a valuable publication that has sustained itself over the years, with ups and downs, but that has kept its readers and managed to find new ones. It's also a number that invites drawing balance sheets and accepting new challenges. It means being critical and self-critical and learning from the comments and suggestions from all participants: editors, directors, and former directors, contributors, and above all, readers. More than three decades ago, the UNAM found that it needed to have a publication specifically for English-speakers, above all in the United States and Canada, as a response to the fast-paced regional economic integration process beginning at the time. The magazine was born in 1986 with one essential objective that is still valid today: offering information and analysis about Mexico, its economy, society, and politics, to readers in our two neighboring countries. All this, with the aim of building bridges of communication that would make



# A Wonderful Journey

it possible not to reduce, but to understand, the differences between us.

*Voices of Mexico* has had different eras and has based its decisions on different editorial lines. Initially, it emphasized socio-political and socio-economic content. Starting with issue 18, it came under the aegis of the Center for Research on North America (CISAN) as its publication for broad dissemination, and thus changed its editorial policy to incorporate topics of general interest for U.S. and Canadian readers. For the first time, therefore, it included articles about Mexican art and culture as a vehicle of understanding and communication with our regional partners. Not only that: it also began publishing color pages. Each of the successive directors has made fundamental contributions: creating sections for the analysis of the dynamics of North America in light of regional integration; for reflecting about Mexico's insertion into a globalized world; and, finally, adding the "Special Section" to each issue to deal more or less exhaustively, in the manner of a dossier, with a problem relevant to the country or a region or their interrelation with the world based on a critical analysis rooted in different disciplines and theoretical, ideological, and political points of view.

Among the magazine's authors are many of the country's most influential specialists, writers, and academics, headed by researchers from the CISAN itself and our university's other research centers and institutes.

The magazine has received many awards for different aspects of its endeavors: the quality of its content; its attractive graphic design; the selection of its photographs and its editorial excellence; and the quality of the printing itself. Its contribution to the task of bringing closer together the three North American nations has even earned it financial support from the U.S.-Mexico Fund for Culture, sponsored



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by the National Council for Culture and the Arts (Conaculta), the Rockefeller Foundation, and the Bancomer Cultural Foundation. The magazine has also won the prestigious Juan Pablo Award for the Art of Publishing given by the Chamber of the Mexican Publishing Industry. *Voices of Mexico* is listed in several periodical indexes and on several important data bases maintained by librarians' associations in the United States.

Over these 30 years, its pages have also been fertile ground for paying homage to many illustrious Mexicans, some of the country's most renowned internationally. Poets, writers, scientists, Nobel Prize laureates, painters, sculptors, researchers, and many, many more have contributed their own articles or have been the subject of reflection by other, equally important authors. Just one example would be the issue dedicated to Octavio Paz.

The times and technology are by no means foreign to us either; today, even before the magazine has come off the presses, the on-line version of *Voices of Mexico* can be viewed at [www.voicemx.unam.mx](http://www.voicemx.unam.mx), which is part of the CISAN/UNAM website. In accordance with the open access philosophy we share, readers can see all the content completely free.

Something which undoubtedly has always been a big plus and has contributed to shaping the magazine's identity are its covers, always depicting work by a Mexican artist, whether well-known and successful or a fledgling creator. To celebrate the one-hundredth issue, we have offered up a selection of them.

The most important thing is that *Voices of Mexico* goes on. To ensure that, we have begun to restructure and rethink the publication, and those efforts will soon bear fruit. The idea is to update without losing the original essence: bringing the best of Mexico to English-speaking readers through our most renowned voices. **MM**

Diego Bugada Bernal  
Editor-in-Chief