

This Is My Mexico

Mexican Children's Painting in the United States

Art is one of the most effective vehicles for reinforcing national identity. Its individual manifestations often express the vision, feelings, ideas and beliefs of a people, the intimate characteristics and popular traditions that make up a nationality. This is the case of the drawings done by more than 3,000 children from Mexico and of Mexican descent living in the United States who participated in the drawing contest "This Is My Mexico," sponsored by Mexico's Foreign Relations Ministry (SRE).



My City and My Symbols, Fabiola Alvarez, 13 years old, New York, New York.

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The Fair, Julio Gallardo, 8 years old, San Francisco, California.

Organized by the SRE Program for Mexican Communities Abroad and carried out through the consulates in the most important U.S. cities where Mexicans reside, the contest was significant for two main reasons: first, it contributed to strengthening the ties between both our nations and, second, it fosters links between communities of Mexican origin in the United States and their culture of origin.



Face with Pyramid, Luis Ordaz, 11 years old, Austin, Texas.



Breaking the Piñata, Phillip Delage, 8 years old, New Orleans, Louisiana.



Fiesta in the Church, Angélica Fernández, 7 years old, Oxnard, California.

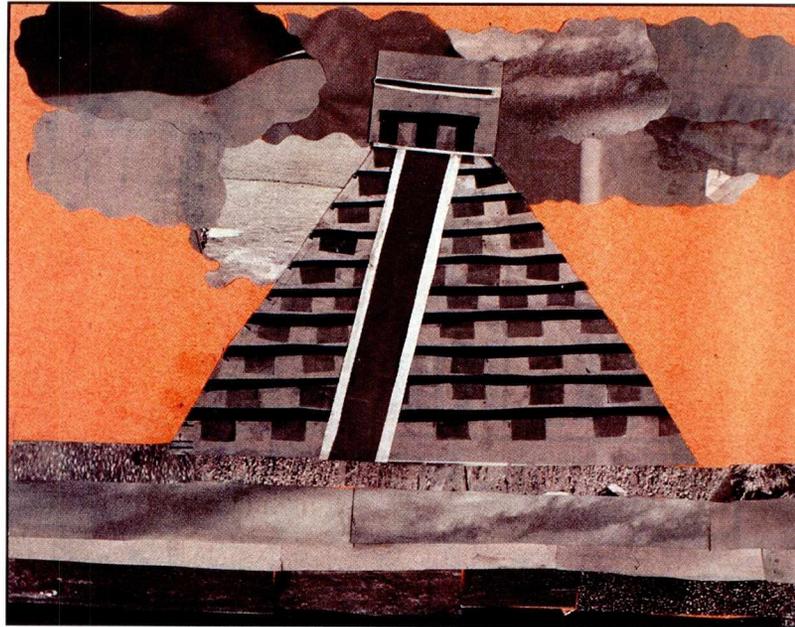
The contest judges included three of Mexico's most internationally renowned artists: painter José Luis Cuevas, painter and muralist Felipe Ehrenberg and engraver Carla Rippey. In addition, representing the director of the National Center for the Conservation and Registration of Non-architectural Art, of the National Institute of Fine Arts, Walther Boelsterly rounded out the judges' panel.



Mexican Fun, Elisabeth Rose Tarnof, 10 years old, San Diego, California.



My Mexican Flag, Mathew Reyna, 8 years old, San Antonio, Texas.



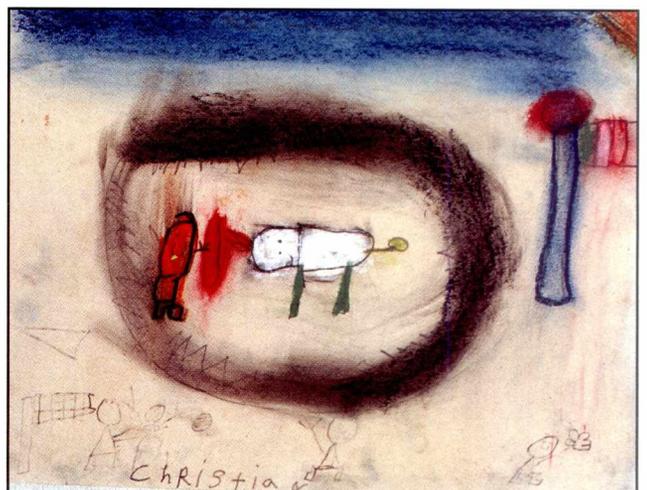
Pyramid with Clouds, Lydia Plascencia, 11 years old, McAllen, Texas.

The judges reviewed 3,758 drawings submitted by 3,281 children between the ages of 7 and 13 from 37 cities around the United States. The 10 winners were awarded an all-expenses-paid trip to Mexico City from October 10 to 13.

The drawings show a truly exceptional ability to express feelings and Mexican traditions simply. This kind of projects are a fundamental contribution to ensuring that Mexican children preserve a love of their homeland and interest in their history even though for different reasons they may need to live abroad.



Mexico Has Everything, Carlos Von Retteg, 11 years old, Austin, Texas.



Bullfight, Christian Zúñiga, 8 years old, Nogales, Arizona.