

# Devotion, Respect, Risk... Alchemy

## The Melancholy of Blue Tacks

María Navarro\*

Looking at López Orozco's work instantly puts us in a little known and even less explored context. We enter a magical world as soon as we see the transfiguration of *jonote* fiber in the hands of the artist. López Orozco is more capable of going back to our own ancestors than of trying to use the millennium's most elaborate technology to successfully infuse the deepest feelings of his soul on a piece of *amate* paper.

The abstraction of what is known, learned, lived and felt is projected in his conversation with his devotion to his work: the dialogue between the mystical and the practical, between truth and lies, between what is and what is not.

Only a few have the privilege of meeting the painter in his Santa María de la Ribera studio, in the sanctuary of *amate* paper. Whether of *jenote* from San Pablito or elsewhere, nowhere but in his studio is *amate* born and transformed, taking on a life of its own. Now it exists for us.

López Orozco's pictorial work reflects the capacity of a creator, of a human being, who from the very beginning enjoys the risk of being able to see his *amate* expand and be finished, and yet, being the

sole creator of it all. The selection of colors in every element he chooses for the paper and recreates in the paper itself are all valid causes for every visible fiber and knot. He becomes one with the paper; he merges with it and so the alchemy emerges with the transformation of the *amate* paper.

Sergio López Orozco invents his own paper and produces a unique language. His capacity for colors and his mastery of composition contribute to the consolidation of his work. His forms of expression are created in his search around the world for a new way of making the *amate*. It is here where we may find the devotion of the artist to his source, the respect for the not-respected, the search for transcendence in what is considered ephemeral. It is here that he achieves the translation of his goal and creates his impressive murals, as stretched and taut as the skin of a drum, where the echoes of feelings and unbreakable forces lie in time. The murals stand longing to be played by our feelings.

It is the strength of the fibers with the sensibility of the artist that touches our soul and tells us of our past and our future. In this mixture of fibers once stretched out and held by blue tacks, *amate* paper is born and that same day becomes one with López Orozco. **MIM**

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