

# 1999

## THE YEAR OF RUFINO TAMAYO



Jesus Sanchez Uribe

Rufino Tamayo, *Man*, 548 x 320 cm, 1953 (vinylite on three masonite panels).  
Dallas Museum of Art Collection, Dallas Art Association Commission, Neiman-Marcus Company

*Between Heaven and Earth is Man  
with his yearning for the infinite.*

### **Rufino Tamayo**

**O**n the centennial of his birth, Mexico and the world are paying homage to Oaxacan painter Rufino Tamayo (1899-1991), a visual artist among the most representative of twentieth century art, which is nourished on constant experimentation and speaks a universal language.

Tamayo was born in the city of Oaxaca at the close of the nineteenth century. His mother died when he was seven and he was brought up by his aunt; together they moved to Mexico City a few years later, and Rufino worked in the family fruit business. In 1917 he began formal painting classes, but his disagreement with the traditional conceptions of art led him to explore other paths. One decisive experience was his work as head of the ethnographic sketching department at the National Archeology Museum. Pre-Hispanic art led him to a rediscovery of light, color and form. This, together with his contact with other artistic expressions and languages during his long stays in New York and Paris, transformed his art into an absolutely personal manifestation of a universal way of seeing the world.

In contrast with the nationalist school represented by the three greats of Mexican muralism, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros and José Clemente Orozco, Tamayo refused to turn his indigenous, Mexican roots into his only source of inspiration. For Tamayo, opening new roads was the only way to create art and his loyalty to this principle is demonstrated in his constant experimentation with color, form and textures for more than seven decades of artistic production.

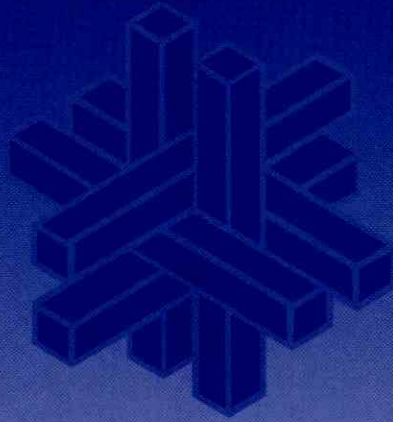
Tamayo was widely recognized during his lifetime: beginning with his first individual exhibition in 1926 at New York's Weyhe Gallery, the list of his exhibitions and retrospectives at the world's main museums and galleries is interminable. His paintings can be found in important private collections, and his murals grace walls from the commissions room at the

UNESCO's conference hall and the library in the University of Puerto Rico, to the Dallas Museum of Art or Mexico City's National Museum of Anthropology.

Tamayo left the people of Mexico two important legacies. The first is his collection of pre-Hispanic sculptures, on view from 1974 in the Rufino Tamayo Museum of Pre-Hispanic Art in his native Oaxaca. The second is the collection of paintings, sculpture, sketches, engravings and tapestries that he and his wife Olga gathered, including pieces by Picasso, Bacon, Motherwell, Tàpies, Miró and Rothko, in addition to his own work. All these works are the permanent collection of the Rufino Tamayo International Contemporary Art Museum, inaugurated in Mexico City's Chapultepec Park in 1981.

This year, in commemoration of the centennial of his birth, this museum has organized the exhibition "Tamayo, His Idea of Man" from August 28 to October 31. More than 50 paintings, representative of all his periods, show us Man in Tamayo's language: Man in his attempt to understand the mystery of life and his own destiny; his meeting with the universe, with solitude, joy, anxiety, music. We reproduce here one of the works exhibited in this show, the moveable mural *Man*, commissioned by the Dallas Museum of Art. Margarita Nelken wrote about this work, "Man as an objective and a summary. Man in his greatest yearning for infinity. Man divesting himself, in a superhuman effort, of everything that ties him to earthly servitude and, yet, setting his feet firmly on the ground. Man in his most decisive gesture of freedom and, nevertheless, never free of his condition as Man" (*Rufino Tamayo 1899-1991* [Mexico City: Museo de Arte Contemporáneo Internacional Rufino Tamayo, 1993] p. 11). **MM**

*Elsie Montiel*  
**Editor**



**CISAN**

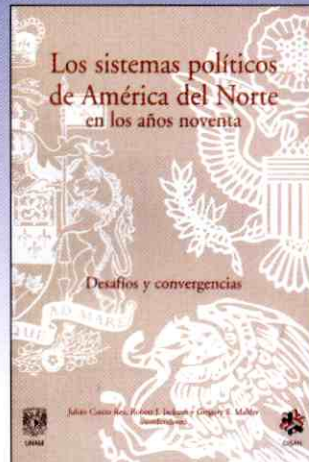
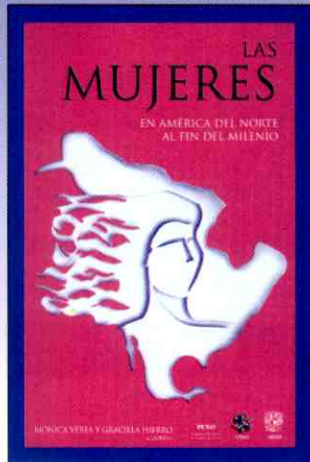
p u b l i c a t i o n s

***Las mujeres al fin del milenio en América del Norte***

Women in North America, Towards the End of Millenium

Mónica Verea and Graciela Hierro, compilers

A pioneering concept, this book is a collective look by Canadian, U.S. and Mexican women academics, officials and artists at the work of today's women and the role they have played in North American societies.



***Los sistemas políticos de América del Norte en los noventa.***

***Desafíos y convergencias***  
(North American Political Systems in the nineties. Challenges and Convergence)

Julián Castro Rea, Robert J. Jackson and Gregory S. Mahler, compilers

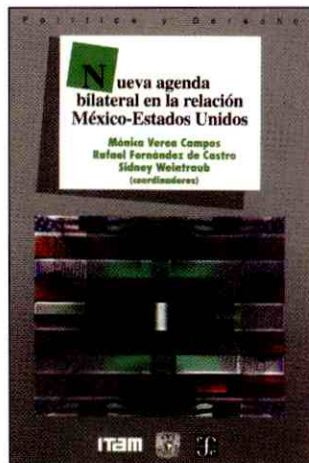
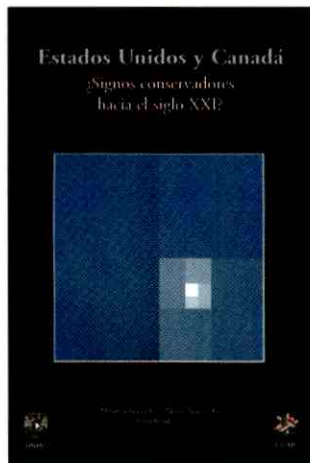
This book takes a comparative approach to the Mexican, U.S. and Canadian legal systems, constitutions, federalism, government institutions, domestic and foreign policies.

***Estados Unidos y Canadá ¿Signos conservadores hacia el siglo XXI?***

(U.S. and Canada. Signs Towards a Conservative xxi century?)

Mónica Verea C. and Silvia Núñez G., compilers

An exploration of conservatism in both countries. It points to the questions the North American societies are going to have to answer in the next century.



***Nueva agenda bilateral en la relación México-Estados Unidos***

(A New Agenda for Bilateral Mexico-U.S. Relations)

Mónica Verea C., Rafael Fernández de Castro and Sidney Weintraub, compilers

A presentation from different angles of the most important items on the new bilateral agenda for the two neighboring countries.



Forthcoming: *Los procesos electorales en América del Norte en 1994.* (Elections in North America in 1994)

For further information contact: CISAN: Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte.



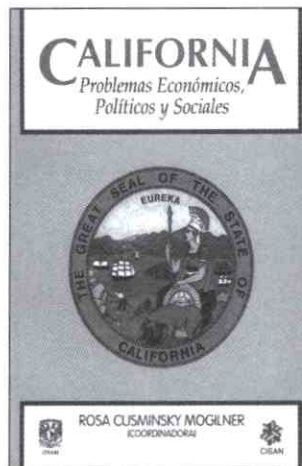
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p u b l i c a t i o n s

**California:  
Problemas económicos,  
políticos y sociales**

Rosa Cusminski (coord.),  
291 pp.

Despite its recent crisis, California is still one of the strongest economies in the world. Specialists from Mexico and the United States examine different aspects of its social, legal, historical, economic and political life.



**Elecciones en Canadá.  
Cambio y continuidad**

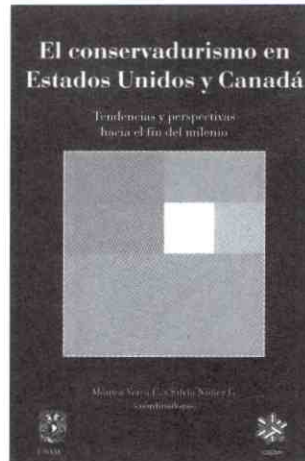
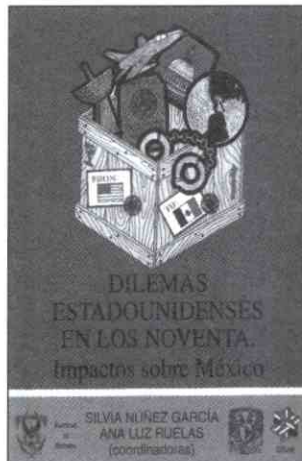
Julián Castro Rea (coord.)  
152 pp.

A review of one of the most complex and controversial elections in Canadian history. These studies probe the outcome of the 1993 elections called in a questioned, divided Canada.

**Dilemas estadounidenses  
en los noventa.  
Impactos sobre México**

Silvia Núñez and  
Ana Luz Ruelas  
(coords.), 155 pp.

Reflections on the inevitable integration offers the reader a more horizontal look at current U.S. problems and their impact on Mexico: among others, the crisis of the welfare state, antiimmigrant paranoia, the changeover from a war economy to a more competitive civilian economy.



**El conservadurismo en  
Estados Unidos y Canadá.  
Tendencias y perspectivas  
hacia el fin del milenio.**

Mónica Vereá C. and Silvia  
Núñez G., compilers.  
342 pp.

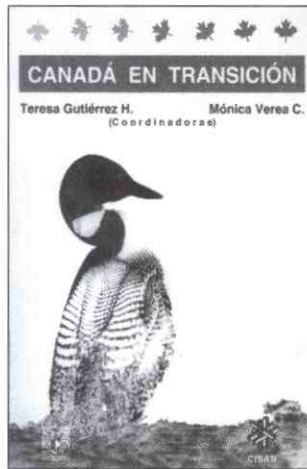
Different analytical approaches and scholarly perspectives to characterize what is generally called "conservatism". The authors start from a recognition of multiple theoretical, conceptual frameworks in their endeavor to overcome stereotypes.



### Canadá en Transición

Teresa Gutiérrez H., Mónica Verec C. (coords.). 683 pp.

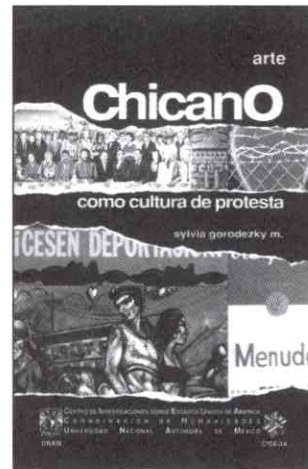
An overview of Canada today offering essays aiming to define the nature of the Canadian situation so as to be able to better understand the previously unknown, recently discovered northern Mexico's trade partner.



### Arte chicano como cultura de protesta

Sylvia Gorodezky, 169 pp.

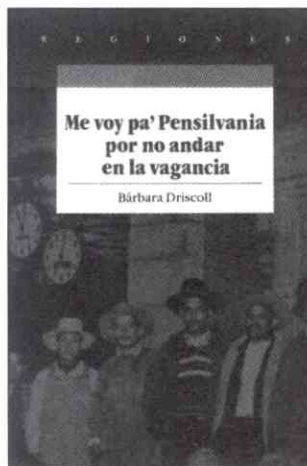
An analysis of the paradoxes of Chicano art based on an overview of Chicano artists and their situation vis-à-vis Mexico and the United States. Includes color prints.



### Me voy pa' Pensilvania por no andar en la vagancia. Los ferrocarrileros mexicanos en Estados Unidos durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial

Bárbara Driscoll, 278 pp.

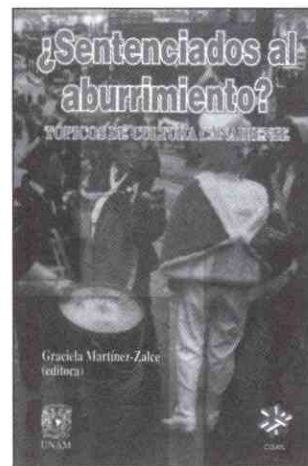
A look at the little known story of nonagricultural Mexican migrant workers in the United States under the Railroad Bracero Program instituted during the Second World War by both the Mexican and U.S. governments.



### ¿Sentenciados al aburrimiento? Tópicos de cultura canadiense

Graciela Martínez-Zalce (editor). 212 pp.

This work brings together different approaches and opinions about Canadian culture and identity. With a look at music, painting, film, literature, television, theater and history, cultural manifestations inherent in Canadian society, it questions the existence of a national identity and culture.



### La gestión de la basura en las grandes ciudades

Pamela Severini. Avances de investigación Series. 61 pp.

This book compares Canadian and Mexican programs on the treatment of solid wastes in Mexico City and Montreal. Severini states that the problem can only be explained by institutional, demographical and economic reasons and could soon result in some serious conflicts.



### La administración Clinton

Bárbara Driscoll, Mónica Verec (coords.) 404 pp.

An analysis of the beginnings of the Clinton administration. A basic sourcebook to explain the transition to a Democratic Administration and to evaluate current political events.

