

Visit our Virtual Exhibit



http://uknowledge.uky.edu/world_mexicoalebrijes/

Case 6



A– Armadillo: From the collection of Mark Kornbluh and Mimi Behar

B,C&D– Armadillos and Porcupine: From the collection of Monica Udvardy and Thomas Håkansson



All from the collection of Francie Chassen-Lopéz)

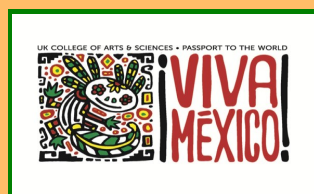


Case 7

Alebrijes are carved from the copal wood. The tree referred to as copal is native to Mexico and has many uses beyond alebrije carving. The sap or resin can be used for a variety of medicinal purposes including treating scorpion bites, relieving cold symptoms, headache, and acne. The fruit and foliage of three produces aromatic linaloe oil used in making lotions, essential oils, and soaps. The resin of the tree is also burned in churches during religious services and produces a fruity, earthy fragrance.

Copaleros collect the wood, which is then dried, and pieces are selected for carving. The shape of the branch often dictates the figure to be carved. Intricate, twisting shapes are desirable for carving lizards, cats, and dragons with interwoven tails. The figures are sanded and painted with a base coat of paint. The final painting is done meticulously with intricate patterns and vibrant colors. Originally, alebrijes were painted with water-based paint that faded or rubbed off, but now producers have switched to latex based house paint.

Although these distinctive cultural artifacts are often assumed to represent a long established, tradition of Mexican folk art, they only began to appear in the 1940s in the state of Oaxaca. All of the alebrijes on display were carved in Oaxaca. (For a full description visit http://uknowledge.uky.edu/world_mexicoalebrijes/)

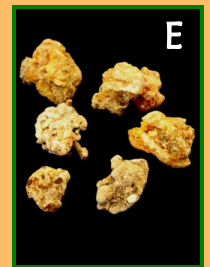


Alebrijes of Oaxaca, Mexico

An exhibition of Mexican folk art from the state of Oaxaca

Exhibit assembled by Dr. Francie Chassen-Lopéz
UK Department of History
Text by Dara Vance, Graduate Student
UK Department of History





Case 1

A- Cat: From the collection of Haralambos Symeonidis

B- Peacock: From the collection of Karen Tice and Dwight Billings

C- Cat: From the collection of Mark Kornbluh and Mimi Behar

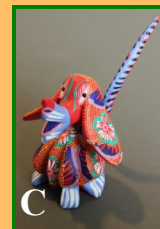
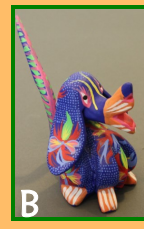
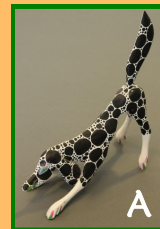
D- Cat: From the collection of Francie Chassen-Lopéz

E- Copal: From the Copal Tree and used for a variety of medicinal purposes.
Alebijes are carved from the wood.

Case 2

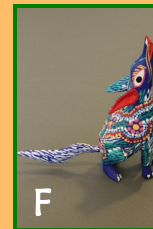
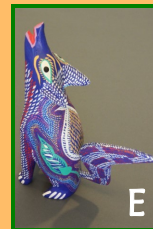
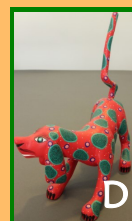


A&B- Snake and Box: From the collection of Francie Chassen-Lopéz
C: Turtles, Crab, and Fish: From the collection of Monica Udvardy and Thomas Håkansson



Case 3

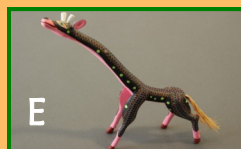
All items in this case are from the collection of Monica Udvardy and Thomas Håkansson



Case 4



A - Giraffe: From the collection of Monica Udvardy and Thomas Håkansson
B&E - Giraffes: From the collection of Karen Tice and Dwight Billings
C&D- Horse and Unicorn: From the collection of Francie Chassen-Lopéz



A,B&C- Lizards: From the collection of Monica Udardy and Thomas Håkansson
D- Lizard: From the collection of Karen Tice and Dwight Billings
E- Lizard: From the collection of Mark Kornbluh and Mimi Behar

Case 5