

TRAVELING
EXHIBITIONS

MUSEO
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ARTE Y DISEÑO



A Thousand and One Faces of Mexico

Masks from the Ruth D. Lechuga Collection un rostros de México

Mil y A Thousand and One Faces of Mexico

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Between 1940 and 1999, Ruth D. Lechuga formed an extensive collection of 1,226 masks, the fruit of her journeys throughout Mexico. In her continuous fieldwork, she attended native celebrations and rituals, spoke with the mask makers and dancers, and witnessed the context for mask-making and -wearing. This exhibition celebrates one of the most appealing, multifaceted, and enigmatic objects known in folk art.

The exhibition presents the mask's universal character through a selection of masks, audiovisuals, photos, graphics, and native attire, while exploring its origin in shamanism. It highlights the background of ritual dances and examines the aesthetics and diversity of the object through the representation of humans, animals, spirits, devils, and death.

Curator: Marta Turok, General Coordinator of the Folk Art Studies Center

Number of pieces: 50 masks, audiovisuals, drawings, photos taken by Dr. Ruth D. Lechuga, graphics, attire, paraphernalia, and scale representations of some dances

Number of thematic sections: 14

Required space: approximately 200–300 m² (2153–3230 ft.²)

Available: starting in July 2020

For further information on traveling exhibitions please contact:

Alejandro Sabido

Director of Exhibitions and Research
asabido@franzmayer.org.mx
55 5518 2266 – ext. 257



"Death" mask

Oaxaca, Mexico, 1975
Carved and painted wood with
a base coat of whiting and
cotton tassels



"Carnival" mask

Oaxaca, Mexico, 1986
Deer pelvis bone, painted,
with tied and knotted horsehair



"Time" mask

Colima, Mexico, 1985
Carved and painted wood



"Devil" mask

Michoacán, Mexico, 1982
Carved and painted wood with
a base coat of whiting