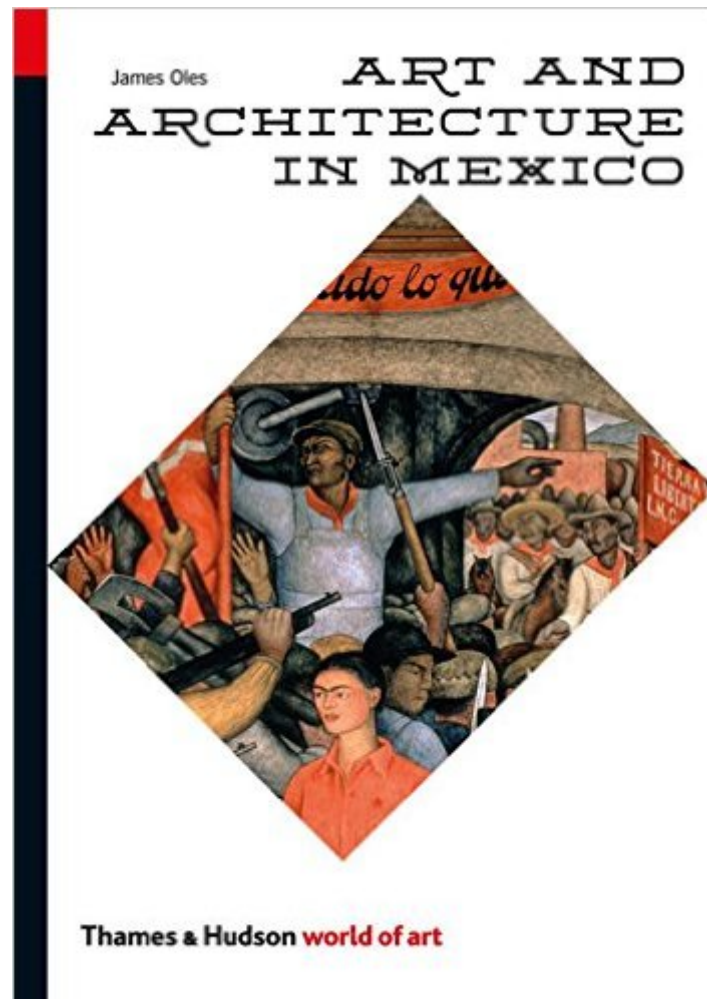


The book was found

Art And Architecture In Mexico (World Of Art)



Synopsis

“at times, even poetic” summary of five hundred years of Mexican art. The illustrated works of art are well-chosen and beautifully integrated into Oles’s text. Indeed, it feels as if his words emanate from the art itself.” —Donna Pierce, Denver Art Museum This new interpretive history of Mexican art from the Spanish Conquest to the early decades of the twenty-first century is the most comprehensive introduction to the subject in fifty years. James Oles ranges widely across media and genres, offering new readings of painting, sculpture, architecture, prints, and photographs. He interprets major works by such famous artists as Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo, but also discusses less familiar figures in history and landscape painting, muralism, and conceptual art. The story of Mexican art is set in its rich historical context by the book’s treatment of political and social change. The author draws on recent scholarship to examine crucial issues of race, class, and gender, including the work of indigenous artists during the colonial period, and of women artists in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Throughout, Oles shows how Mexican artists participated in local and international developments. He considers both native and foreign-born artists, from Baroque architects to kinetic sculptors, and highlights the important role played by Mexicans in the global art scene of the last five centuries. 276 illustration, 249 in color

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Customer Reviews

Mexico is one of the Great Art Countries of the world, and not only Mexico City but even local centers like Zacatecas, Merida, and Puebla are world-class centers of art, with their own museums

and cathedrals. Yet Mexican art remains little known (except perhaps for Frida Kahlo). It need remain unknown no longer. This is a quite amazing book--introductory yet thorough, with much for the expert. It goes into full detail on the social and cultural history of fine art in Mexico from the Conquest until today. It is free of the dreadful sort of art history that shows a picture and says "here we see a man, a woman and a tree [or whatever]." Instead, Oles provides the social background of the art, details about the lives of the painters and architects, and details about what relevant cultural and political events were going on at the time. The result is that, even if you're a fairly knowledgeable Mexican-art lover (like me), you will learn a great deal about your favorites and find a whole new world in art you never heard of. More to the point, you will understand what was going on at the time and what the artists were reacting to. The limitation is that this book concentrates on elite art since 1520. Pre-Columbian art, later Indigenous art, most folk art, regional art, and crafts are all neglected, evidently for reasons of space. Pre-Columbian art is well covered in available literature, but those other traditions are in need of treatment like this. For crafts, one pretty much has to go back to Chloe Sayer's old but excellent books. For regional traditions like those noted above, the English-language reader is pretty much out of luck, and I hope somebody covers them some day at the level of the present book. Meanwhile, suffice it to say that I would bet that anyone with even passing interest in art will love this book.

Very good review of art and architecture in Mexico. This book will make sightseeing in Mexico much more meaningful.

I love this book. Great reference for history and art classes.

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