



Mexican Graphic Art

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- Features key examples of Mexican graphic art
- Richly illustrated essays offer a comprehensive overview of the history and the artistic, political, and social context of Mexican artists and their work

This new book, published to coincide with an exhibition at Kunsthaus Zürich in summer 2017 offers an overview of the development of Mexican graphic art between the late 19th-century and the 1970s, ranging from figurativism to early abstract works. It features around 50 key works on paper, printed using a range of techniques, that deal with issues such as poverty and wealth, love and cruelty, and the poetry and hardships of everyday life. In addition to prints by José Guadalupe Posada, there are characteristic Realist works by Leopoldo Méndez, Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros as well as abstracts by Rufino Tamayo and Francisco Toledo. Revolutionary ideas and engagement with socio-cultural and socio-political concerns play a key role in the history of Mexican art. The members of Taller de Gráfica Popular, a people's graphic art workshop established in 1937 by a collective of international artists in Mexico, produced flyers and posters for the masses supporting trade unions, popular education and socialist issues in the country. Their editions exemplify the typical Mexican tradition of black-and-white woodcuts and linoleum prints. The images depict Mexican life and the customs and characteristics of its indigenous populations, but also include the country's first forays into abstract art. The images are complemented by an introductory essay and brief texts on the artists and featured works. The *Mexican Graphic Art* exhibition runs from 19 May to 27 August 2017, Kunsthaus Zürich.

Milena Oehy is an art historian and a research assistant at the Swiss Institute for Art Research.