FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (SAN FRANCISCO, 25 August, 2019) Humanities West opens its 2019-2020 Season with **Mexico’s Artistic Revolution**, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Mexican artists in film, literature, visual art, and music that arose in the wake of Mexico’s political revolution of 1910-1920. The program takes place on Friday, November 1, from 7:30pm to 9:30pm, and Saturday, November 2, from 10am to 4pm, at Marines’ Memorial Theatre, located at 609 Sutter Street in downtown San Francisco.

Tickets for **Mexico’s Artistic Revolution**, are priced as follows: Single tickets for individual Friday programs are $74 orchestra and $54 balcony and individual Saturday programs are $89 orchestra and $64 balcony, single tickets for both days of each program are $149 orchestra and $99 balcony. Order direct from City Box Office 415-392-4400 or [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com). Season tickets may still be available and offer a significant savings. Visit [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org) for details and complete program descriptions for the 2019-2020 Season. Individual balcony tickets for teachers and students are available for $30/day for any program. Free tickets are available in limited quantities for students age 25 or younger (inquire at info@humanitieswest.org).

Humanities West’s unique programs are designed to transport audiences through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances to the Bay Area. The 2019-2020 season begins with a visit to Mexico during the first half of the twentieth century, where one of the most dynamic chapters in the history of modern art unfolded. Mexico’s political revolution from 1910-1920 ushered in an artistic revolution reflecting its values and resulting in the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema; a vibrant literary scene dominated by Nellie Campobello, Juan Rufino and Octavio Paz; and the emergence of important visual arts ranging from the intensely political to the abstract and surreal,
with contributions from Diego Rivera, José Clemente Orozco, Frida Kahlo, Rufino Tamayo, and others. While these new art forms served political goals, they also provided artists with a way to re-conceive modernism as a populist art form. This two-day program brings a panel of noted scholars, musicians, and art historians together to celebrate and explore *Mexico’s Artistic Revolution* and its enduring impact on the arts and culture of modern times.

The program opens Friday evening with a presentation by María Eugenia Vázquez (UCLA) on *The Politics of Culture in Post-Revolutionary Mexico, 1910-1940*. Vázquez will discuss the political and social environment existing during and after the Mexican Revolution of 1910-1920, revealing how post-revolutionary Mexico supported arts and literature to create a national identity among all Mexicans.

A special musical performance by Los Cenzontles follows. Fronted by Fabiola Trujillo and Lucina Rodriguez, the dynamic vocal dueto will present traditional, rural mariachi music to accompany dancers, including tunes from their CDs El Chivo and El Toro Viejo, as well as “El Sepulcro de Zapata.”

On Saturday, art historian and curator Mark Castro presents *A New Nation: Mexican Modern Art in Context*, exploring the vital role artists played in the construction of a new national identity in the midst of Mexico’s violent revolution from 1910-1920. Castro offers a glimpse of the complex history of innovation and debate within Mexican art that helped shape the nation and in turn influenced modern art across the globe. Works by José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and David Alfaro Siqueiros will be discussed.

Maarten van Delden (UCLA) follows with a presentation on *The Novel of the Mexican Revolution. Or the Anti-Novel?* This presentation will trace major literary works that were written during and after Mexico’s period of turmoil from 1910-1940. These works range from fascination to a kind of horror—developed by authors including Mariano Azuela, Martín Luis Guzmán, Nellie Campobello, Rosario Castellanos, Carlos Fuentes and Elena Garro.

The program continues with *Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo: Harnessing Tradition in the Service of Avant-Garde Art*, a lecture by Adriana Zavala (Tufts University). Zavala will discuss the lives and careers of two of Mexico City’s most dynamic artists, Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo. Together they championed Mexican traditions but always with an eye toward creating a resolutely modern Mexican art.
The weekend culminates with a multimedia presentation by Audrey Harris (UCLA) on *Themes from the Golden Age of Mexican Cinema*, exploring important genres and themes that emerged in the films produced in Mexico from 1933-1964: the *comedia ranchera*, which idealized life in the Mexican countryside; the burgeoning *cine negro* (film noir) genre that took a dark look at mid-century life in the big city; and *rumbera* films contrasting their gritty subject matter with sultry song and dance numbers. The presentation will include clips of classic films by representative directors and cinematographers, including Emilio ‘el Indio’ Fernández, Roberto Gavaldón, Gabriel Figueroa, and Spanish émigré Luis Buñuel.

A panel discussion with the presenters will follow, addressing questions from the audience.

*Ancillary programs providing opportunities to learn more about the featured topic and related issues complement this two-day event. For a complete program schedule and additional information about the presenters please visit [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org)

****

**About Humanities West**
Serving the Bay Area since 1983, Humanities West Explores History and Celebrates the Arts through time and across the globe, bringing illuminating lectures and dynamic performances that focus on the people, places, and events that have shaped, and still inform, modern cultures.

Each season Humanities West presents a number of programs in which leading scholars and artists present lectures, performances, readings and discussions to audiences in San Francisco’s Marines’ Memorial Theatre. These one- or two-day events represent an opportunity unique not only to the Bay Area, but also to the entire United States. In cooperation with other institutions, such as the Mechanic’s Institute Library and the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco, additional public lectures and panels are presented to further expand upon program topics.

****

**CALENDAR LISTING: EVENTS/LECTURES/ARTS & CULTURE**
**WHAT: Mexico’s Artistic Revolution**
Humanities West presents *Mexico’s Artistic Revolution*, a two-day program of lectures, discussions, and musical performances celebrating the extraordinary contributions of Mexico’s artists in film, literature, visual art, and music that arose in the wake of Mexico’s political revolution of 1910. Presenters include Mark A. Castro (Art Historian/Curator), Audrey A. Harris (UCLA), Maarten van Delden (ULCA), María Eugenia Vázquez (UCLA), and Adriana Zavala (Tufts), with a special music performance by Los Cenzontles, fronted by vocalists Fabiola Trujillo and Lucina Rodriguez.

**WHEN:**
7:30pm to 9:30pm, Friday, November 1, 2019  
10am to 4pm, Saturday, November 2, 2019

**WHERE:**
Marines’ Memorial Theatre  
609 Sutter Street, San Francisco

**TICKETS:**
$30 - $89  
Tickets are available through City Box Office at  
415-392-4400 or online at [www.cityboxoffice.com](http://www.cityboxoffice.com)  
Group tickets: [info@humanitieswest.org](mailto:info@humanitieswest.org)

**PUBLIC INFO:** 415/391-9700 or [www.humanitieswest.org](http://www.humanitieswest.org)