

# For Immediate Release

## The Minneapolis Institute of Art's Newest Exhibition, in Partnership with the Denver Art Museum, Provides a Poignant Look into the History of Latin America

*The exhibition, opening July 1, 2023, will feature nearly 200 ancient and contemporary artworks that establish a visual narrative of the formation and evolution of the Americas*

**MINNEAPOLIS (June 8, 2023)** — The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia), in partnership with the Denver Art Museum, will open its newest exhibition, "ReVisión: Art in the Americas," highlighting nearly 200 artworks from ancient and contemporary artists from Latin America and the United States dating from 100 BCE to today. The collection will be on view from July 1 to Sept. 17, 2023, and will feature full exhibition and artwork descriptions in both English and Spanish, a first for the museum.

The exhibition will showcase nearly 130 objects from the Denver Art Museum's Ancient American and Latin American collections, hailed as one of the best in the country, with additional, rarely displayed artworks from Mia's permanent collection, including photographs by Sebastião Salgado and gold and silver figures dating from the seventh century, among others. Intended to highlight both the beauty and pain throughout Latin America's history, the exhibition juxtaposes ancient and contemporary artworks that speak to the global contributions of Latin America, as well as the exploitation of its resources, people, and land after the European invasion.

"The collective history of Latin America's different regions is vast and varied, but it carries a similar throughline that speaks to the sophistication, vibrancy, and resilience of the land and its inhabitants," said Valéria Piccoli, Ken and Linda Cutler Chair of the Arts of the Americas and curator of Latin American art at Mia. "This exhibition provides Mia guests a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in the stories — both celebratory and agonizing — that have impacted Latin American inhabitants and lands through a look at world-class ancient and contemporary Latin American art."

Rather than a chronological placement of the artworks that make up this collection, the exhibition provides a thematic exploration of land, people, and place by linking ancient and contemporary artworks that address political and social issues at the heart of the region's cultural heritage.

### Set of *Casta* paintings, Francisco Clapera, Mexico

"ReVisión: Art in the Americas" includes the only fully intact series of *casta* paintings in the United States, featuring 16 oil-on-canvas artworks by Francisco Clapera dating to 1775, which provide a rare glimpse into the domestic life of 18th-century Mexico through depictions of families engaging in daily activities. A genre of 18th-century Mexican art, *casta* ("caste") paintings underscored the mixing of Spaniards, Africans, and Indians by naming, labeling, and ranking social and racial categories. The series also depicts a variety of occupations in the colonial era, as well as a vast array of clothing, tools, and activities common at the time through the blending of Mexican, Asian and European cultures.

### Gold Mine, Serra Pelada, Brazil

From the lens of artist and social documentarian Sebastião Salgado, this 1986 photograph records the exploitation of a miner at the Serra Pelada gold mine in the Amazon region of northwest Brazil. This image is one of many that Salgado captured at Serra Pelada and chronicles the inhumane conditions Latin American miners often experienced as European countries clamored for the rich natural resources of the region.



Leo Chiachio & Daniel Giannone, (Argentinean, born 1969; Argentinean, born 1964), *Calaverita*, 2014, hand embroidery with cotton thread and jewelry effect on Alexander Henry fabric. Denver Art Museum: Funds from the Ralph L. and Florence R. Burgess Trust, 2022.50. © Chiachio & Giannone. Photo by Christina Jackson, courtesy Denver Art Museum.

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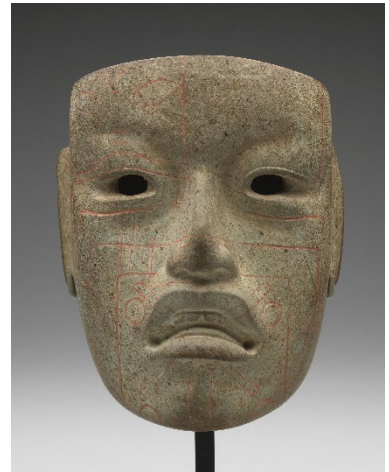
## Olmec Mask, Unknown artist, Mexico

This olmec mask, created about 3000 years ago from jadeite and cinnabar, was perhaps a portrait of a leader of the Olmec people of Mesoamerica (present-day southern Mexico) and likely reserved for ceremonial use. The lines on the mask may replicate face paint or tattooing. The rare materials and symbolic designs reflect the ruler's religious and political power.

"We are proud to partner with the Denver Art Museum to bring 'ReVisión: Art in the Americas' to life for our guests at Mia," said Katie Luber, Nivín and Duncan MacMillan Director and President of Mia. "This collection highlights an ever-important conversation surrounding place and belonging at home, as well as globally, through the lens of ancient and contemporary art and will allow visitors to reckon with both the beautiful and difficult historical moments that have shaped Latin America as we know it today."

ReVisión: Art in the Americas is organized by the Denver Art Museum. This exhibition is supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Carl & Marilyn Thoma Foundation. This exhibition is made possible through the support of the National Endowment for the Arts and the Thoma Foundation, as well as major sponsors including United Health Foundation, Wells Fargo, and Thomson Reuters, and media sponsor the Star Tribune.

For more information on the "ReVisión: Art in the Americas" exhibition, as well as ways to view the collection, visit [artsmia.org](https://artsmia.org).



Olmec, Mask, c.900-300 BCE, jadeite, cinnabar. The John R. Van Derlip Fund, 2002.127. Collection of the Minneapolis Institute of Art

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## About the Minneapolis Institute of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest art collections in the country — from all corners of the globe, and from ancient to contemporary — Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration.

General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee.

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit [artsmia.org](https://artsmia.org).

## About the Denver Art Museum

The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its mission is to enrich lives by sparking creative thinking and expression. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Metro residents support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations. For museum information, visit [www.denverartmuseum.org](https://www.denverartmuseum.org).

## About Valéria Piccoli

Valéria Piccoli is the Ken and Linda Cutler Chair of the Arts of the Americas and curator of Latin American art at Mia, having joined the museum in the fall of 2022. Born and raised in Brazil, she studied architecture at the University of São Paulo, where she also received her master's degree and PhD in art history. Her academic work focused on the iconography produced by European traveler artists working in Latin America during the 16th to 19th centuries; her curatorial practice has expanded to exhibitions of modern and contemporary art.

# Mia

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Piccoli was assistant curator at the Fundação Bienal de São Paulo prior to joining the curatorial team at the Pinacoteca de São Paulo, one of the largest museums in South America, in 2008. As chief curator beginning in 2012, she was instrumental in the reinstallation of the permanent collection and worked with artists such as Ernesto Neto and Rosana Paulino on survey exhibitions at the museum. She has collaborated on numerous international research and exhibition projects, among them "Terra Brasilis," part of the Europolia Brésil festival (Brussels, 2011), and "Picturing the Americas: Landscape Painting from Tierra del Fuego to the Arctic" in partnership with the Art Gallery of Ontario, in Toronto, and the Terra Foundation for American Art, in Chicago (2015–16). This exhibition won an award from the Association of Art Museum Curators.