

Heroes Must Fall Zapata and the Path of Freedom

Curated by: Luis Vargas

A journey through twentieth and twenty-first century visual representations of Zapata.

This project interrogates the irrepressible nature of images, passing from one field of meaning to another.





Guiding concept

What do Emiliano Zapata and his images, past and present, mean for the history of Mexico? What are the legacies of the Zapatistas and how have Mexican communities interacted with them? To whom does Zapata's image belong, to the state and political powers that be, or to an abstract "community"?

Organized into different sections that focus on dominant ideologies, local, national values, the variety of affects that ignited social activism, and the role of the image of Zapata. In each chapter, artworks in different mediums feature alongside ephemera and archival documents.





Breaking from the grand narratives that have marked the invention and reinvention of modern Mexico, this exhibition expands the diverse and often contradictory transformations of Zapata's image as a revolutionary hero, racial symbol, guerrilla, and icon for feminist movements.



"Luis Vargas Santiago and his collaborators have done a marvelous, thoughtful job of bringing together a wealth of images that allow us to peruse the past century of the history of greater Mexico through the figure of Zapata. No brief review can do justice to the complexity of these works and the richness of the exhibit as a whole."

- Samuel Brunk (with Anne L. Perry)



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