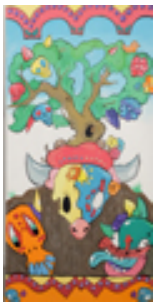


Ventanas

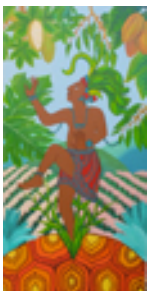
From January 21–May 6, 2015, students in the ENGAGE: Mural Art class, a diversity studies course at California College of the Arts (CCA), in partnership with The Mexican Museum (TMM) and The Unity Council, designed and painted mural panels decorating the historic Masonic Temple, 3365 International Blvd, Oakland, CA. Seven mural panels (on the building's International Blvd side) express themes of community resilience, cultural diversity, and affirmation of traditional culture and youthful energy. They are directly inspired by the collections of the Museum. Guided by TMM's director and educators, and Unity Council staff, art students identified themes and created designs for the murals that were painted at CCA. The partnership between two leading Bay Area art and educational institutions and the Fruitvale's pioneering community development corporation reinforces the cultural richness of Oakland and the significance of Latino culture in the region. This collaboration was facilitated by ENGAGE at CCA, a community partnership program housed within CCA's Center for Art and Public Life.

Ventanas Mural Panel Descriptions by CCA art students



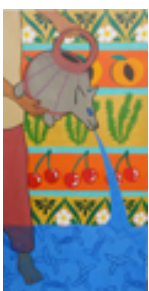
Tessa Shimizu, Joshua Barish

We focused on Mexican folk art and tradition. Particularly on the masks featured in folk tale performances and celebrations, and the tree of life and death. We integrated these two elements in a non-traditional style. The tree emerges from masks that preserve the important role of animal personification in Mexican folk art. Artifacts we found in Museum collections influenced the bright colors, floral and skeletal elements. Our idea is that the overall culture including ancient folk tales, beliefs and symbols within popular art should not be forgotten.



Caroline Walters, Djinnaya Stroud, and Jackie Krase

This panel represents pre-Hispanic art with the Mayan Corn God, a significant indigenous deity. In Mayan creation stories, the Corn God was reborn each year from a crack in the turtle shell of the world, bringing renewal and rebirth. The spirit of renewal is embodied by The Unity Council work that provides fertile beginnings for new residents. The hills of fruit trees recall Fruitvale's agricultural past. Medicinal and spiritual plants from the Yucatan unite the ancient Corn God to the healing potential of tradition.



Caroline Weaver, Matt Kelly

We present water as an important symbol of prosperity, both in terms of culture and agriculture. We show a figure dressed pouring a pitcher full of water onto the ground. The armadillo pitcher is from The Mexican Museum collection. The water symbolizes efforts to give back to a community dedicated to fostering culture. The feet in the water represent the cycle of growth. Apricot and cherry patterns symbolize the fruits grown when Fruitvale was still farmland.