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Mel Casas papers: Press Kit, The Latin American Spirit: Art and Artists in the United States 1920-1970 Exhibition, 1989

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THE LATIN AMERICAN SPIRIT
ART AND ARTISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, 1920-1970

SELECTED ARTIST'S BIOGRAPHIES

David Alfaro Siqueiros

David Alfaro Siqueiros was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1896. He studied at La Esmeralda in Mexico City, and in Europe on a scholarship from the Mexican government. Siqueiros enlisted in the Venustiano Carranza Constitutionalist Army, and at age 17 was a staff officer. As military attaché at the Mexican delegation in Paris, he was exposed to contemporary artistic movements. Returning to Mexico in 1922, he organized the "Syndicate of Technical Workers, Painter, and Sculptors" and workers unions in Guadalajara. He also founded the magazine *Machine*, which expounded the principles of a new national "people's art."

After 1924, Siqueiros visited Moscow, Havana, Los Angeles, and New York, where he established the "Siqueiros Experimental Workshop, A Laboratory of Modern Art Technique." In 1930, he was jailed for political activities and exiled two years later. Siqueiros served in the Spanish Republican Army from 1937, to 1939, the year he returned permanently to Mexico. Siqueiros' art often depicts violent social protest, featuring dynamic, swirling brushwork and dramatic contrasts of light and dark. Among his best works are frescos in the National Preparatory School in Mexico City and murals at the Chouinard Art Institute and Plaza Art Center in Los Angeles, (which have since been destroyed). His work can also be seen in the Mexican School in Chile, The National Institute of Fine Arts and the Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City. Siqueiros died in 1974.

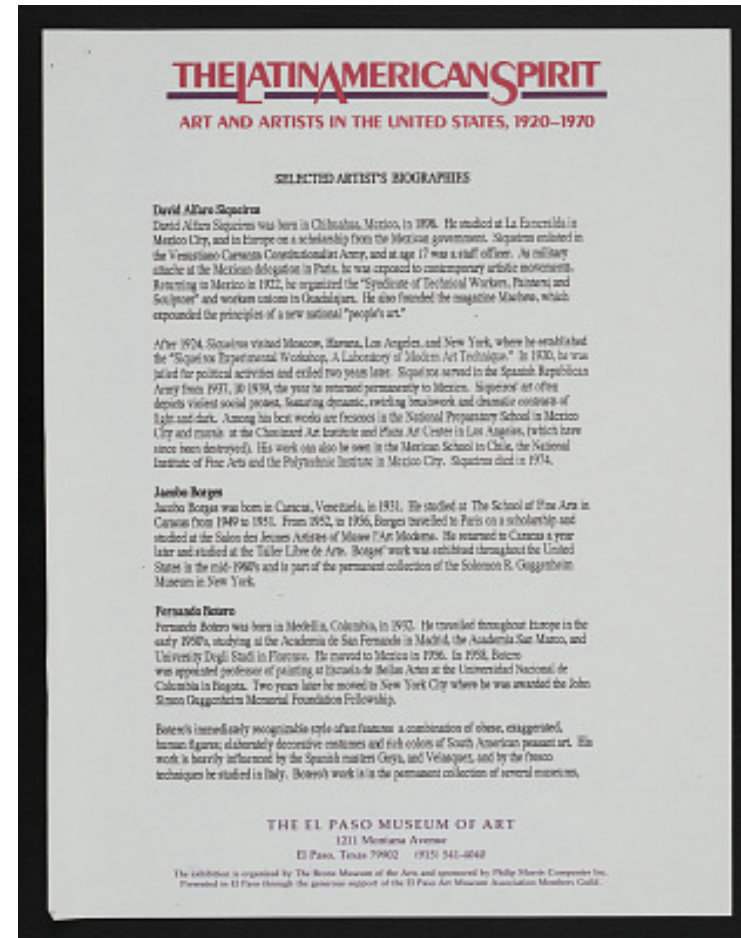
Jacobo Borges

Jacobo Borges was born in Caracas, Venezuela, in 1931. He studied at The School of Fine Arts in Caracas from 1949 to 1951. From 1952, to 1956, Borges travelled to Paris on a scholarship and studied at the Salons des Jeunes Artistes of Musée d'Art Moderne. He returned to Caracas a year later and studied at the Taller Libre de Arte. Borges' work was exhibited throughout the United States in the mid-1960's and is part of the permanent collection of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York.

Fernando Botero

Fernando Botero was born in Medellin, Columbia, in 1932. He travelled throughout Europe in the early 1950's, studying at the Academia de San Fernando in Madrid, the Academia San Marco, and University Degli Studi in Florence. He moved to Mexico in 1956. In 1958, Botero was appointed professor of painting at Escuela de Bellas Artes at the Universidad Nacional de Columbia in Bogota. Two years later he moved to New York City where he was awarded the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship.

Botero's immediately recognizable style often features a combination of obese, exaggerated, human figures; elaborately decorative costumes and rich colors of South American peasant art. His work is heavily influenced by the Spanish masters Goya, and Velasquez, and by the fresco techniques he studied in Italy. Botero's works in the permanent collection of several museums,



THE EL PASO MUSEUM OF ART
1211 Montana Avenue
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