

Major new partnership between UK and Mexican museums launches in London

- **A ground-breaking exhibition, which opens Friday 6 June, launches an exciting new cultural partnership between the Franz Mayer Museum in Mexico City, the Museum of Textiles in Oaxaca and the Fashion and Textile Museum, London.**
- **MADE IN MEXICO The Rebozo in Art, Culture & Fashion (6 June – 31 August 2014) celebrates the art of Mexican textiles and how the colourful rebozo scarf helped change the course of Mexican history.**
- **The new partnership welcomes the 2015 celebration of the ‘Year of Mexico’ in the UK and the ‘Year of the UK’ in Mexico, which aims to enhance and deepen the bilateral relationship between the governments of both countries.**
- **The exhibition also presents a major design exchange programme with the Fashion and Textile Museum, Newham College and students at the University of the Arts London and Universidad Iberoamericana, whose work features in the exhibition.**

MADE IN MEXICO The Rebozo in Art, Culture & Fashion is the first-ever exhibition dedicated to the rebozo, the classic shawl woven in Mexico. The exhibition features over 200 garments, works of art and contextual material from the 17th century to the present day.

Head of the Fashion and Textile Museum, Celia Joicey says: ‘This exciting partnership with the Museo Franz Mayer, the Museo Textil de Oaxaca and the Universidad Iberoamericana has enabled the Fashion and Textile Museum to bring these masterful woven textiles to the UK for the first time to show in this stunning exhibition. We are grateful to the Anglo Mexican Foundation, whose excellent cultural relations have helped to foster trust and collaboration between the museum and education partners.’

Director of the Franz Mayer Museum, Hector Rivero Borrell says: ‘The rebozo is a crucial symbol of Mexican life and identity. We are happy to be collaborating with the Fashion and Textile Museum to highlight the beauty of Mexican textiles and to inspire future generations with their skilled craftsmanship.’

The UK and Mexican museum partnership welcomes the start of a new bilateral trade relationship ‘Getting Ready for 2015’ between the two

countries, which aims to forge greater ties between the UK and Mexico: to help boost the economy, find new export markets for British and Mexican businesses, identify new opportunities and sign new contracts.

Maru Solis, General Manager of the Mexican Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain, says:

'This extraordinary cultural collaboration between UK and Mexican Museums demonstrates that the UK and Mexico are in the best position to welcome the 2015 celebrations of the 'Year of Mexico' in the UK and the 'Year of the UK' in Mexico. This initiative has been set and agreed by the governments of both countries to enhance and deepen the bilateral relationship.

The Mexican Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain is a true believer in art as a means of cultural expression and as an imperative tool for trans-national collaboration. Understanding a culture facilitates empathy, which is crucial for a successful relationship between countries. Cultural awareness is essential in today's global business landscape and the MADE IN MEXICO exhibition is the perfect opportunity to stimulate this knowledge.'

MADE IN MEXICO The Rebozo in Art, Culture and Fashion is organized by the Fashion and Textile Museum with the support of organisations including the Anglo Mexican Foundation and the Mexican Chamber of Commerce. The exhibition is presented in sections which explore: the history of Mexican textiles; key personalities associated with the rebozo – from Frida Kahlo to Grammy-award winning musician Lila Downs; how the rebozo is used and worn; weaving techniques; and, the rebozo in contemporary art and fashion.

Historic rebozos from the Franz Mayer Museum, Mexico City will be reunited with loans from the British Museum, originally part of the Robert Everts Collection. Everts (1875-1942), a diplomat in Mexico at the turn of the 20th century, was one of the first to identify the importance of the rebozo in Mexican art and design. Also featured is a selection of rebozos once owned by Ruth D. Lechuga (1920-2004) whose collection of Mexican popular arts is also travelling to the UK for the first time.

Frida Kahlo's key role in promoting the rebozo through her portraiture and beliefs is explored in a section of Mexican dress curated by renowned Mexican anthropologist Marta Turok. A parallel is drawn with 21st century musician Lila Downs, who promotes Mexican textiles through her art and performance in the same way.

Photographs by contemporary artists Graciela Iturbide and Lourdes Almeida document the rebozo in the context of Mexican life, art and fashion. While an installation by artist Mauricio Cervantes explores the 'aroma de luto' rebozo and its use as a death shroud. MADE IN MEXICO also features over 50 new works from painters, conceptual artists, fashion designers and textile artists invited to present their response to the rebozo. Mexican artists whose work will be shown include Pedro Diego Alvarado, Francisco Toledo, Sergio Hernandez, Guillermo Olguin, Mauricio Cervantes, Eloy Tarcisio, Antonio Turok, Armando Salas Portugal and Pablo Aguinaca plus fashion designers Carla Fernandez, Lydia Lavin and Carmen Rion. UK artists who have created pieces inspired by Mexico include Barbara Rae RA, Kaffe Fassett, Zandra Rhodes, Andrew Logan, Alison Willoughby, Wallace Sewell and Mary Restieaux.

The exhibition explores the resurgence of craft skills through a cultural exchange programme to design rebozos for the 21st century with University of the Arts London and Universidad Iberoamericana. In addition, the Museum has a programme of workshops and demonstrations, including Fashion Design without Cutting by Mexican fashion designer Carmen Rion. Anyone attending will unquestionably leave with a creation that is the result of being inspired by a deeper awareness of Mexican craft and culture.

Notes to editors

1. The exhibition 'MADE IN MEXICO The Rebozo in Art, Culture & Fashion' is organised by the Fashion and Textile Museum and is at the Museum 6 June to 30 August 2014. The exhibition travels to the Franz Mayer Museum, Mexico City in spring 2015.
2. The exhibition opens to the public on Friday 6 June 2014 with a press view on Wednesday 4 June, from 4.30–7pm.
3. The exhibition is curated by Hilary Simon in collaboration with Dennis Nothdruff, Curator of the Fashion and Textile Museum.
4. The Fashion and Textile Museum is at 83 Bermondsey Street, London SE1 3XF. www.ftmlondon.org @FashionTextile
5. Exhibition opening times: Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–6pm; Thursday until 8pm; Sunday until 5pm last admission 45 minutes prior to closing. Monday closed.
6. Ticket prices: £8.80 adults, £6.60 concessions, £5.50 students, inclusive of 10% donation. Under 12s are free Booking information: online or call **0844 248 5076**
7. The Fashion and Textile Museum is the only museum in the UK solely dedicated to showcasing developments in contemporary fashion, as well as providing inspiration, support and training for those working in the industry. Founded by iconic British designer Zandra Rhodes, the museum is owned by Newham College London – one of Europe's largest further education colleges. The Museum is located in the only building in Europe designed by award-winning Mexican architect Ricardo Legorreta (1931–2011).
8. The exhibition is made possible with thanks in particular to the Anglo Mexican Foundation and the Franz Mayer Museum, Mexico City, Mexico's leading museum of decorative arts (franzmayer.org).

Exhibition images



Frida, San Angel 1941
Nickolas Muray, 1941



Lila Downs wearing rebozo
Antonio Turok, 2013



Juanita Esquivel-Masahua
Lourdes Almeida, 2000

Exhibition partners and supporters



Exhibition preview supported with Mexican food and drink from:



For further press information and images please contact:

Alison Lowe, Press Officer, Felicities Ltd, representing Fashion and Textile Museum,
Tel: + 44 (0)20 7377 6030, Email: Alison@felicities.co.uk