MEDFORD, MA – The Tufts University Art Gallery presents *Mexico Beyond Its Revolution*, a thematic examination of Mexican art from the past century, on view in the Koppelman Gallery from September 9th to November 19th. In recognition of this year’s centennial of the Mexican Revolution, which began on November 20, 1910, and also the bicentennial of Mexico’s independence from Spain, declared on September 16, 1810, guest curator Adriana Zavala, associate professor of art history and director of the Latin American Studies Program at Tufts, has woven together a multi-media exhibition with photographs, works on paper, paintings, sculpture, and video to elucidate Mexico’s revolutionary transformations over the 20th century.

The exhibition is comprised of 38 artworks by 24 Mexican and Mexico-based artists: Lola Álvarez Bravo, Manuel Álvarez Bravo, Francis Alÿs, Abraham Angel, Alberto Beltrán, Enrique Chagoya, José Luis Cuevas, Javier de la Garza, Pedro Friedeberg, Mathias Goeritz, Graciela Iturbide, Helen Levitt, Carlos Mérida, Dulce
Maria Núñez, José Clemente Orozco, Adolfo Patiño, José Guadalupe Posada, Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, Melanie Smith, Gerardo Suter, Rufino Tamayo, Mariana Yampolsky, and Nahum B. Zenil. The selected works exemplify how these artists have lived and expressed the “Revolution” in all its permutations as well as the ways that art and the Mexican nation have transcended the Revolution.

The Mexican revolution marked a turning point in Mexican history and cultural development, ushering Mexico into the modern era. The array of works in this exhibition explore the complexities that have marked the cultural rebirth of Mexico by presenting a range of perspectives. Rather than focus on the historical events surrounding 1910, the works on view were selected in order to situate the cultural revolution in a more comprehensive framework. Viewers are invited to reflect upon the ideals and accomplishments of the Mexican “renaissance” and are introduced to artists who challenged the historical, political, and folkloric themes that predominated in the work of many of their contemporaries.

The black ink prints by José Guadalupe Posada, the oldest works in this exhibition, establish a trend of contemporary political satire. Raw political fervor and societal unrest literally and metaphorically bleed through the frame of Manuel Álvarez Bravo’s Striking Worker, Assassinated. Graciela Iturbide’s black and white photograph Heroes of the Fatherland illuminates the stark contrast between the reality of a sun-beaten, elderly peasant man and the undelivered promises of Mexico’s post-Revolutionary political leaders, under whose portraits he stands. With The Adventures of Modern Cannibalism, one of the most recent works included, Enrique Chagoya contemporizes the ancient Mayan narrative form of the codex with a pastiche of popular cultural icons and colonial indigenous imagery.

A companion exhibition of ten color photographs and a montage of video excerpts from an eponymous film by Laurence Salzmann is on view in the Remis Sculpture Court, adjacent to the Koppelman Gallery. Echelas Ganas (Do Your Best): A Life Left Behind portrays the ways of life of villagers in the mountainous region of La Sierra de Norte in the Mexican state of Puebla. The photographs and accompanying video portraits document traditional village life left behind by the workers who have emigrated north: cultural activities such as weddings, saints’ day celebrations, first communion, and events that constitute daily existence.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

Opening Reception:
Thursday, September 16, 5:30 to 8pm

Symposium “Mexico: Its Revolution and Beyond” (organized by the Tufts Latin American Studies Program)
Friday October 1, 10:00am to 5pm

Curatorial Walkthroughs:
Thursday, September 30, 6:00 to 6:45pm
Saturday, October 23, 11:15 to 11:40am & 11:45am to 12:15pm

Voice Your Vision! Drop-In Guided Tours:
Thursday, September 16, 6:00 to 6:45pm & 7:00 to 7:45pm
Sunday, September 26, 2:00-3:30pm (Tufts Community Day; extra family friendly)
Sunday October 3, 3:00 to 4:00pm (Homecoming Weekend)
Friday October 22, 10:00 to 11:00am (Parents Weekend)

Screening and discussion of Echelas Ganas (Do Your Best): A Life Left Behind
with photographer and filmmaker Laurence Salzmann:
Thursday, October 21, 6:30 to 8:00pm

Visit our website at http://artgallery.tufts.edu for more information.