

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II received the Letters of Credence of Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora



On 23 February Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora presented Queen Elizabeth II with his credentials accrediting him as Mexico's representative to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The Ambassador attended the ceremony accompanied by his wife, Laura de Medina-Mora and officials from the Mexican Embassy.

Afterwards, Ambassador and Mrs. Medina-Mora hosted a reception at which the Vice Marshal of

the Diplomatic Corps, Simon Martin, spoke about the growing and cordial relationship between both countries underscored by the state visit by President Felipe Calderon and his wife, Margarita Zavala, in 2009. Ambassador Medina-Mora noted that Mexico and the United Kingdom share common values and are working closely on a variety of issues both bilaterally and through the G20.



Summit on Latin American and Caribbean Unity



Riviera Maya, Quintana Roo, Mexico. During the Second Plenary Session of the Summit on Latin American and Caribbean Unity, President Felipe Calderon reported that one of the agreements reached by the 25 Heads of State and Government was to create the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States as a regional organization comprising all the states in the region.

"We are showing the world that despite our legitimate and understandable differences, Latin American and Caribbean nations have decided to unite, find the mechanisms for understanding each other and resolve our differences. And we are quite clear that there are far more things that identify and link us than those that divide and separate us," he said.

The President declared that the consolidation of this mechanism marks a decisive step in the institutional history of the region since the region's participation is decisive in overcoming challenges and solving the problems faced by mankind.

President Calderon said that under Mexico's Chairmanship of the Rio Group it had inter alia admitted three new members: Cuba, Surinam and Jamaica. He stressed the fact that this mechanism arose as a result of a Latin American initiative that will increase the region's role.

"We want this common heritage to remain in force, be enriched during this new stage, expand its integrationist vocation and contribute to constructing a better future for Latin America and the Caribbean. This will enable us to match the ambitions of our nations," he said.

During this same event, President Felipe Calderon handed over the Chairmanship of the Rio Group to Chilean President Michelle Bachelet: "I know that as Chair, Chile will provide continuity for and build on what has been achieved to date for all Latin American and Caribbean countries," he said.

MORE INFORMATION

www.presidencia.gob.mx/

Human Rights in Mexico

Political Reform

In his last report to the nation, President Calderon presented ten important proposals to reform the political system. The main objective is to simplify electoral processes as well as to allow a greater number of political actors to take active participation within the Government's decisions. The initiatives include immediate consecutive re-election of mayors, municipal and delegation chiefs as well as federal and local legislators; reduction of the number of seats in the Federal Congress; independent candidacies to public posts; legal projects from the Supreme Court of Justice, amongst others, are now being discussed in the Congress.



Mexico handed over Ghana the Presidency of IDEA

Last December Mexico concluded its work in the presidency of the Council of **IDEA** (Institute for Democracy and Election Assistance). IDEA is an intergovernmental organization integrated by 25 states whose main aim is assisting in democratic development throughout the world. Ghana will take over the presidency for the next two years.

Freedom of Speech



Last 27th January, COFETEL (Federal Telecommunications Commission) issued broadcasting rights to indigenous communities to operate radio stations devoted to social interests. These licenses were given in the provinces of Nuevo León, Oaxaca, Morelos, Puebla, Quintana Roo and Jalisco. These actions underscore the Mexican Government's full commitment to the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights which was strongly supported by our country in the 60's.

MORE INFORMATION

www.sre.gob.mx/reinounido/derechoshumanos (in Spanish)

Mexico at the Aerospace Industry Conference

The Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora, gave the opening speech, encouraging investors to look at Mexico as an opportunity to do business. He pointed out the main characteristics of the Mexican market and highlighted the benefits of the country's strategic geographical position, the excellent engineers and technicians working and studying in Mexico and competitive costs in the manufacturing sector. During the Conference, fifteen presentations were given by renowned personalities of the Mexican and UK aerospace sectors. The presentations referred to the legal framework of Mexico's manufacturing sector (IMMEX) and the benefits it has for foreign direct investment in the country. The National Plan for the Aerospace sector in Mexico was also presented by Alexandra Haas, Representative of ProMéxico in the UK. Several success stories were also presented during the Aerospace Conference; such is the case of CESSNA Aerospace and the EVEREST Group.

With over a hundred attendees, the Aerospace Industry Conference was a precursor of the events to be held at Farnborough in July 2010, where Mexico will have a pavilion. Mexico is becoming the key provider for the world's aerospace industry; the number of aerospace industries established in Mexico has tripled during the past during the last five years. Mexico provides the most competitive operational costs out of the OECD countries. According to KMPG's "Competitive Alternative 2008" research, companies established in Mexico can save up to 30 per cent in operational costs.

There are over 190 aerospace companies in Mexico. Most of them are foreign. They employ 30,000 workers and in 2008 exported 3 billion dollars. The Aerospace industry in Mexico is conformed mainly by manufacturing and assembly activities.

Mexico's Aerospace Industry Conference was held the 11th of February at the Hilton Hotel in Heathrow Airport. Organized by Mexico Now, in conjunction with other companies,



Mexican states and institutions, it's main purpose was to objectively analyze the present and future conditions of the aerospace industry in Mexico. Another important achievement was the detailed information obtained on current state and development of the sector and the interaction between leading UK companies and Mexican plant managers. It was a great opportunity to learn about the industry's value chain in Mexico and the details of intellectual property protection and certification.



MORE INFORMATION

www.promexico.gob.mx

The Aerospace Industry in Mexico



In recent years many aeronautical firms have chosen Mexico as the best place to invest among emerging markets. By the end of 2009, about 220 firms had already made investments in 16 Mexican states, 79% of the companies were in the manufacturing, 11% were in maintenance, repair and operation, 10% were in engineering and design. Firms such as Honeywell, Eurocopter, Safran Group, Bombardier, Hamilton Sundstrand and Goodrich already have subsidiaries in Mexico. The aerospace sector employs more than 30,000 people and it is estimated that Foreign Direct Investment in the Aerospace sector has been more than 3.5 billion dollars. Currently, there are many suppliers of major OEMS in Mexico.

Mexico's tradebalance in the aerospace sector had a surplus of 1 billion dollars. In the last five years, Mexican exports of aerospace goods have been increasing at an annual rate of 26%. In 2012, it is forecasted that the sales of aerospace components will be 7.5 billion dollars and the annual investment in the aerospace sector will be 1,200 million dollars. The Mexican exports of aerospace goods are mainly sent to the United States, the European Union and Canada. Nowadays, Mexico is the ninth largest supplier to the United States above China, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and Malaysia. Mexico ranks second in the Americas in the number of aircraft in the General Aviation segment. Besides, it is the country that has the second largest jet business fleet in the world after the United States.

There are many firms established in Mexico that are manufacturing aerospace components such as turbines, propellers, landing gears, rotors, fuselages, sensors, hoses, heat exchangers, insulation panels, bathrooms, galleys and harnesses. Furthermore, other companies provide services such as maintenance, repair and operation of turbines, airfoil repairs and technical support..

The depreciation of the peso against the dollar in real terms, low transportation costs, the reduction of tariffs for the importation of intermediate and capital goods as well as the network of twelve free trade agreements with 44 countries have improved the competitiveness of Mexico. Currently, Mexico is considered as the best place in the world to manufacture goods for the North American market. Moreover, the British firms that offshore operations to Mexico can save total costs between 25% and 35%. Therefore, the migration of British aerospace firms to Mexico can be seen as a cost effective. In the medium term, Mexico will become a major supplier of aero parts to the main markets worldwide.



Bombardier Q400. Picture of Courtesy of Bombardier Aerospace. Queretaro, Mexico.

The Seventh Edition of the “Mexican Housing Day”



The Seventh Edition of the “Mexican Housing Day” was held on the 5th February 2010 at the UBS offices. The purpose of this event was to discuss the strengths and opportunities that the Mexican housing sector represents for investors and how it has overcome one of the worst economic crises.

The Mexican Housing Day was a unique event with the collaboration of the private and public sector, represented by the six largest housing developers ARA, URBI, HOMEX, SARE, GEO and Consorcio Hogar and with the intervention of public agencies such as INFONAVIT, FOVISSTE, CONAVI and SHF.

The Mexican housing sector represents a great opportunity for investors and developers with a long-term housing demand and a steady growth sector. The main factors for a stable market is that there is no over supply or price bubble, good credit analysis and solid social mortgage institutions.

The expected growth for 2010 is of 3% GDP. There is an approximate housing deficit of 8.9 million houses that represents a large market for housing developers. It is intended to stimulate mortgage housing supply by \$1.6 billion dollars from capital markets and to provide financing for low income homes and financing for construction projects.

Among the participants of the event were Mr. Alejandro Werner the Vice-Minister of Finance, Mr. Manuel Pérez the Executive Director of FOVISSTE, Mr. Ricardo García Conde from the Mexican Banking Association and Mr. Victor Borrás CEO of INFONAVIT.

The closure of the event featured Mexican Ambassador Eduardo Medina-Mora, who emphasized the governments support for the Mexican housing sector through several institutional reforms and the development of new sustainability policies such as the existence of 32 potential projects for Self Sustainable House Units in 17 different states with a total investment of \$22.6 billion dollars.

The Mexican Housing Day served the purpose of engaging public awareness with respect to the great business opportunity that the Mexican housing sector represents and the stability of the Mexican market concerning the financing and mortgages for housing demand.

MORE INFORMATION

www.mexicanhousingday.com





Visit Mexico in the UK

To mark the celebrations of Mexico's 200 years of Independence and a hundred years of the Revolution, the Mexico Tourism Board in the UK has teamed up with various UK organisations to bring a flavour of Mexico to the UK.

This female mariachi band of New Tecalitlan, was founded in 2006 in Guadalajara, Jalisco's capital city. Taking on a male dominated industry, the group has been acclaimed at major mariachi festivals in Mexico and has had the opportunity to perform in the USA.

The original Mariachi Nuevo Tecalitlan consisted of male performers and was founded in 1965 in Jalisco. Mariachi is a typical musical group whose origins could be traced back to the State of Jalisco in western Mexico. Traditionally mariachi bands have been formed by men and consists of violins, trumpets, an acoustic guitar, a *vihuela* (a high-pitched, five-string guitar), a *guitarrón* (a large acoustic bass) and occasionally a harp. This tradition has been caught up by modern times and also by generations and now a ten female mariachi band will make their debut in the UK.

Their presentation in the United Kingdom has been made possible thanks to the support of the Mexico Tourism Board in the UK, the State of Jalisco, Barbican Centre and Como No! .

The Mexico Tourism Board in the UK introduces the "Female Mariachi band of New Tecalitlan" whose first performance in the UK will take place this coming 24 April at Kings Cross St. Pancras and 26 April at the Barbican Centre.



Surreal Friends Exhibition

The Mexico Tourism Board in the UK and Pallant House Gallery present three major international exhibitions celebrating the work of three leading women surrealists including the British-born painter Leonora Carrington (b.1917). Her work is to be shown alongside works by her friends, and fellow Mexican residents, the Spanish-born painter Remedios Varo (1908-1963) and Hungarian photographer Kati Horna (1912-2000).



The series of exhibitions will explore the fierce independence and extraordinary, overlapping personal lives of these women in a celebration of their works.

These major exhibitions will take place at Pallant House Gallery from June 19 to September 12 and at the Sainsbury Centre of Visual Arts from September 28 to December 12, 2010.

MEXICO IN THE UK

NEWS FROM MEXICO

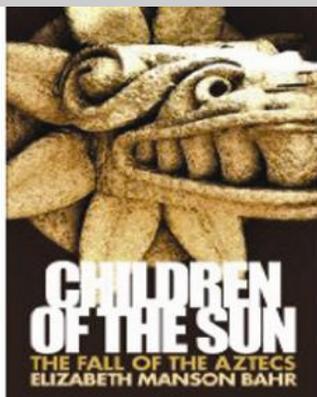
CULTURE

CALENDAR



The British Mexican Society is the UK based organisation dedicated to promoting Mexico's rich cultural heritage among our members.

We arrange talks and other events and provide opportunities for people of whatever nationality to come together to share their enthusiasm for all topics related to Mexico. We also raise funds for charity projects in Mexico.



The British Mexican Society's 2010 programme started successfully with the excellent talk by Ignacio Duran, Cultural Attaché at the Embassy, on his expert topic of Mexican Cinema.

Our next talk, on 24 March, is from the author of the thoughtful and historically perceptive novel Children of the Sun about Moctezuma's daughter. Simultaneously that evening we have the preview of a new exhibition of Mexican art by Katina Riba.

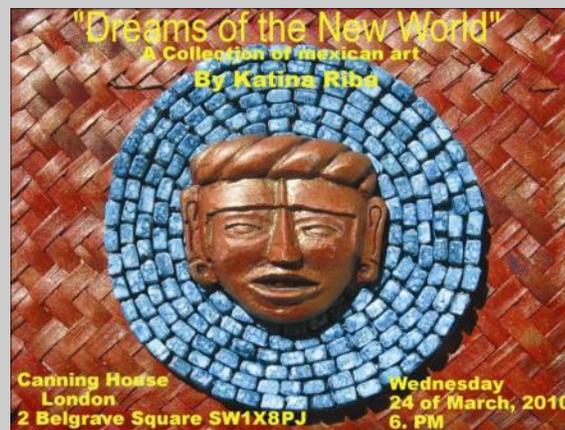
This event is followed on 20 May by the presentation from the world-renowned expert on ethnic dress and textiles, Dr Patricia Anawalt. Both these events are in Canning House and start at 6pm.



On Saturday 19 June we have a guided tour of the Pallant House Gallery's exhibition Surreal Friends, featuring works by Leonora Carrington, Remedios Varo and Kati Horna. This visit to Chichester will give a wonderful opportunity to see Pallant House's regular exhibitions as well as this special one. Then on 7 July we shall have a fascinating 'double act' from both our Honorary Presidents, the Mexican Ambassador in London and the British Ambassador in Mexico.

On 28 September we have our gala reception in the House of Lords where we shall celebrate, along with members of other Anglo-Latin American associations, the Bicentenary of Independence. This will be an opportunity not to be missed with representatives from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay and Venezuela as well as, of course, Mexico.

Benefits of membership include our regular newsletter and frequent email updates on events organised by others but which we believe will be of interest to members because of their connection with Mexico or, in some cases, Latin America generally. Not only do our Members find our events interesting but they provide splendid opportunities to meet others with an interest in Mexico - its culture, traditions and current political and economic situation.



MORE INFORMATION

www.britishmexicansociety.org.uk
chairman@britishmexicansociety.org.uk

imira! mexico

A season of recent critically acclaimed Mexican films



Mira Mexico! Film Festival: a success for our contemporary cinema

For the first time, Mexican contemporary cinema was featured at the Barbican Centre in London last January.

The festival, inaugurated by Ambassador Eduardo Medina Mora, presented the latest productions such as the award winning *Cinco Días sin Nora*, *Daniel y Ana*, *Viaje Redondo*, *Lake Tahoe* and *Espiral*, among others plus a special screening of the classic silent film *El tren fantasma* which was a sold out event.

We are pleased to announce that over 1,000 people attended the festival, proving once again the great interest and enthusiasm that Londoners have for our cinema.

We would like to thank the Mexican Film Institute, Filmoteca UNAM, Yume Pictures, Fortissimo Films, Mantarraya Films, Latinofusión and La Media Luna Films for their invaluable support in making this very successful event possible.

Viva! Hispanic and Latin American Film Festival

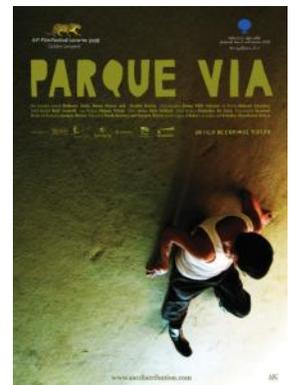
Once again the Mexican Embassy in the UK has worked closely with the festival to present an exciting programme of Spanish, Latin American and Mexican cinema in Manchester. The 2010 edition of the festival will run from 6 -27 March at the iconic Cornerhouse cinema.

This is a great opportunity to enjoy the latest and award winning Mexican productions such as *Daniel y Ana*, Michel Franco's successful debut and Enrique Rivero's *Parque Vía*.

New features to the festival's programme include the screening of *El viaje de Teo* directed by Walter Dohener which will be the subject of a study day for GCSE students.

MORE INFORMATION

www.vivafilmfestival.com



Carlos Amorales at Conerhouse Gallery, Manchester

To accompany the Viva! Hispanic and Latin American Film Festival, Cornerhouse Gallery in collaboration with the Mexican Embassy in the UK presents a solo exhibition by Carlos Amorales, one of Mexico's leading contemporary artists.

This show will feature some of the latest and outstanding large-scale video installations such as *Psicofonías* where his iconic drawings are turned into music. The public will also have the opportunity to experience *Discarded Spider* where the artist's image is seen manipulating a giant spider web.

Amorales holds a successful career in the international contemporary arts scene. His work uses a broad range of media, including installation, video and performance which provide the ideal tools to create remarkable works of art many of which draw upon cultural symbols of Mexico.

MORE INFORMATION

www.cornerhouse.org/art/info.aspx?ID=409&page=0&gallery=1&galleryidx=-1



Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao at Cambridge University



As part of the 2010 Cultural Programme, the Embassy of Mexico and The University of Cambridge are pleased to welcome leading Mexican architect Tatiana Bilbao to Britain.

On 8 March, she will deliver a key note conference on contemporary Mexican architecture and her work at Department for Architectural Studies of the Sidney Sussex College.

Tatiana Bilbao formed her own practice in 2004, and has completed award winning projects in Mexico, China, and Spain. The studio's objective is to address contemporary society and architecture, research and urban studies, including a department devoted to cultural projects such as exhibitions, lectures, and publications. Bilbao was advisor for Urban Projects at the Urban Housing and Development Department of Mexico City in 1998-99.

Projects in Mexico include the Botanical Garden Culiacán; Funeral House, San Luis Potosí and Universe House designed with artist Gabriel Orozco in Puerto Escondido. The firm also designed the Jinhua Architecture Park in China.

MORE INFORMATION

www.arct.cam.ac.uk/Arct/Home.aspx



Mexican artist Laureana Toledo at the Serpentine and the Trolley

The prestigious Serpentine Gallery in London will launch this coming 11 March at 6.00pm the publication of *The Limit* edition dedicated to the work of Mexican contemporary artist Laureana Toledo. This event is open to the public, so feel free to drop by.

The Limit is the result of Toledo's participation in Art Sheffield 05: Spectator T, an ambitious city-wide contemporary art event which took place within Sheffield's major galleries in 2005. In this project, Toledo created *The Limit*, a work of art presented as a band which only played covers by Sheffield native bands such as Pulp, Def Leppard and The Arctic Monkeys and was born specifically for Art Sheffield 05.

This book is inspired by the format of the iconic British magazine *The Face* and presents with a unique view of Laureana's work with the participation of top curators and art critics such as Cuauhtémoc Medina, Tatiana Cuevas, Frances Richard, Catherine Lampert and David Byrne.

To mark this publication, the Trolley Gallery in east London will show Laureana Toledo's recent work in a special solo exhibition opening 17 March and until 16 April.

MORE INFORMATION

www.trolleybooks.com/exhibitions.php
www.serpentinegallery.org

Mexican poets tour the UK with the Poetry Translation Centre

The Mexican Embassy in the UK, Arts Council England and the Lottery Fund have joined efforts with the Poetry Translation Centre to make possible this year's Word Poets Tour focused in Mexico. Three of the nation's finest poets, David Huerta, Coral Bracho and Víctor Terán will tour Britain from 14 April to 3 May, giving audiences a unique opportunity of getting close to the remarkable work of these authors in both English and Spanish.

For London audiences, a special poetry reading will take place this coming 15 April at the Cervantes Institute, The Free the Word Festival at the South Bank Centre on 17 and 18 April as well as the final event on 3 May at Kings College London. The tour includes prestigious venues such as The Scottish Library in Edinburgh, the University of Oxford and Chetham's Library in Manchester, just to mention a few. In each session, the poets will present their latest work accompanied by their British translators Tom Boll, Catherine Pierpoint, Jamie McKendrick and David Shook.

MORE INFORMATION

www.poetrytranslation.org

Series Celebrating 200 years of Latin American Independence

The Mexican Embassy, ACALASP (Association of Cultural Attaches of Latin America, Spain and Portugal) and the Instituto Cervantes London have joined to create this series to mark the Bicentennial of the Independence of Latin America.

The first event will take place on 24 March with a the fascinating talk *Independence and the Writer in Latin America* by Prof. Edwin Williamson, King Alfonso XIII Chair of Spanish at the University of Oxford. The lecture will examine the historical context of independence and its aftermath, providing an overview of the development of the lit-

We will continue on 25 March with a round table discussion on Spanish language titles *El español que nos une y nos diferencia*. The panel of experts will talk about current issues such as globalisation and migration as vehicles to reinforce Spanish as a language of international communications. At the same time, this fascinating debate will look into the differences between the Spanish spoken in Latin American and in Spain.

MORE INFORMATION

www.londres.cervantes.es

Mexican critic Juan Manuel Springer and the Silent Revolution

As part of the cultural activities programme accompanying the exhibition *Revolution on Paper: Mexican Prints 1910-1960*, the Mexican Embassy was proud to present the renowned art critic and Cultural Attaché at the Mexican Embassy in the Netherlands, Juan Manuel Springer, who delivered a fascinating lecture at the Cervantes Institute on 4 February.

The Minister for Cultural Affairs, Ignacio Durán, introduced the session where Mr. Springer gave a complete panorama on the arts, particularly printmaking, between 1920 and 1950 with a special focus on the famous *Taller de la gráfica Mexicana*.

Mexicolore celebrates its 30th anniversary



February– March 2010

Back in 1980 former Mexican dancer Graciela Sánchez and British development education specialist Ian Mursell created Mexicolore. The idea was to provide British schools with exciting ideas and tools to study Mexico and in particular the Mexica culture.

Mexicolore is now a successful independent teaching team which has collaborated with organizations such as The British Museum, The Royal Academy of Arts and the BBC, among others, to bring Mexican culture closer to the British schoolchildren and general public as well.

For 30 years, Graciela and Ian's creativity and passion for education has lead a solid legacy in over 125,000 British schoolchildren who have enjoyed music, dance, drama, costumes, artefacts, slides and other media to learn Mexican history and culture in a unique way. We congratulate Mexicolore on its 30 years of and we wish them many more to come.

MORE INFORMATION

www.mexicolore.co.uk

CALENDAR

25 February 10.00 – 17.00 pm

Academic Seminar: *Ghosts of the Mexican Revolution in Literature & Visual Culture*

Winstanley Lecture Theatre
Trinity College
University of Cambridge

6-27 March 5.00 pm

Viva! Hispanic and Latin American Film Festival

Cornerhouse Cinema
Manchester
www.vivafilmfestival.org

6-27 March 6.30 pm

Art Exhibition: Carlos Amoraes

Cornerhouse Gallery
Manchester
www.cornerhouse.org

8 March 6.00 pm

Lecture: Mexican Contemporary Architecture by Tatiana Bilbao

Sidney Sussex College
Universidad de Cambridge

11 March 6:00pm

Book Launch: *The Limit* featuring the work of Mexican artist Laureana Toledo and other Mexican curators and art critics.

Serpentine Gallery
www.serpentinegallery.org

17 March – 16 Abril

Exhibition: Laureana Toledo's recent work

The Trolley Gallery
London
www.trolleybooks.com/exhibitions

24 March 6.30 pm

Lecture: *Independence and the Writer in Latin America*

Instituto Cervantes
www.londres.cervantes.es

25 March 6.30 pm

Conferencia: *El español que nos une y nos diferencia*
(In Spanish with simultaneous translation available)

Instituto Cervantes
www.londres.cervantes.es

15 April 6.30 pm

Poetry Translation Centre's Tour of Mexican Poets: David Huerta, Coral Bracho and Víctor Terán

Instituto Cervantes
www.londres.cervantes.es
www.poetrytranslation.org

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