

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York  
| Annual Report 2005



Cover: Helen Escobedo  
*FOR THE TURTLES*  
*Chelonia Umbrellicus Firestonii*, 1993  
Costa Rica

# The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York Annual Report 2005

Founded in 1991, the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York was established along with thirteen other Institutes throughout the United States as part of the "Program for Mexican Communities Abroad." The main purpose of this program was to nurture a sense of national identity among the people of Mexican origin living in the United States by strengthening their links to Mexico's history and traditions. Both as an independent U.S. not-for-profit organization and the New York cultural branch of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Mexican Cultural Institute is committed to generating awareness of the richness, dynamism and cultural diversity of Mexico as a democratic, plural and creative nation. Through art exhibitions, performances, film screenings, panel discussions, readings, and book presentations and other activities, the Institute in collaboration with leading New York organizations, develops and co-sponsors events that showcase the uniqueness of Mexico's art and culture, and infuses New York with the variety of Mexico's traditional and contemporary cultural and artistic expressions.

**Objectives of the Mexican Cultural Institute:**

- To exhibit the cultural heritage and creative vitality of Mexico in New York.
- To renew the image of Mexico in the United States, attempting to change and overcome existing misconceptions and stereotypes of its people, society and culture.
- To promote the learning of Spanish and the richness of our language and literature.
- To create a new artistic outlet for Mexican creative talent, identifying areas of opportunity to showcase the artists' work abroad.
- To create business opportunities for Mexican cultural products abroad.

**To fulfill its mission, the Institute:**

- Coordinates and collaborates with museums, art organizations, galleries, publishers, performance spaces, and individuals interested in organizing programs related to Mexico.
- Supports universities and research centers in the organization of academic symposia and other events in order to promote a better understanding of Mexico's history and current affairs.
- Promotes all local cultural events related to Mexico through email blasts and through the distribution of printed promotional materials of events.
- Provides Mexican artists with grants to participate in the artist-in-residence program at the International Studio and Curatorial Program (ISCP).
- Partners with local and Mexican institutions in the presentation of multi-disciplinary programs.

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The visual arts have always been an important focus for the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York. Mexico's vibrant history in the visual arts continues through exhibitions and programs.

## Mexico City Dialogues: New Architectural Practices January 27, 2005

This exhibition presented the architecture and urbanism of Mexico City through selected projects by 12 young Mexican firms and a separate exhibition featuring Brooklyn's Visual and Performing Arts Library by **TEN Arquitectos**. The Mexican Cultural Institute helped with the publicity of this program.

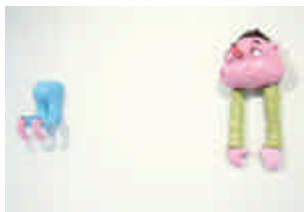


## Traveling Identities April 1-13, 2005

This installation at the **MediaNoche Gallery** was about the cultural identity of Mexican immigrants. It was created by **La Manga** (Mario Villa and Gabriela Medina) in collaboration with **Anna Keller** and **Adriana Alcalá**. The Mexican Cultural Institute helped with the publicity of this program.

## Fiesta @ the Center May 5, 2005

Celebration of *El Cinco de Mayo* at **The Center for Architecture** highlighting the closing days of the *Mexico City Dialogues: New Architectural Practices* exhibition.



## International Studio and Curatorial Program Open Weekend (ISCP)

May 7- 9, 2005 and November 19 – 21, 2005

This partnership between **Mexico's National Fund for Culture and Art (FONCA)** and the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York provides emerging Mexican artists with the opportunity to meet with international artists and curators and develop a visual art project during a four month residence in New York City. In 2005 Mexican artists **Ilan Lieberman** and **Humberto Duque** participated in the program at the ISCP.



#### Remains - Art by Gustavo Aceves May 10-21, 2005

This exhibition by **Gustavo Aceves** was presented at the **Zone: Chelsea Center for the Arts**. Included were Aceves' wonderful figural works, depicting richly layered forms in his reserved pallet. The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York helped in the promotion of this exhibit and obtained in-kind gifts to make possible this show.

#### New York Fast Forward >> Buildings by Enrique Norton / TEN Arquitectos June 15 – October 30, 2005

This exhibition, presented at the Museum of the City of New York, investigated the work of internationally recognized architect **Enrique Norton**, who has built extensively in his native Mexico and around the world but has now begun to put his distinctive aesthetic stamp on New York City. The Mexican Cultural Institute helped in the publicity and fundraising activities of this show.



#### Julián Cardona Exhibition October 20 – December 3, 2005

This exhibition of black and white photographs by photojournalist Julián Cardona showcased work selected from his body of work called *Exodus*, an intimate narrative that traces the artist's reflections surrounding the violence, death, poverty, injustice, and despair that accompany life along the Mexico-U.S. border. In the tradition of Manuel Alvarez Bravo and Nacho López, Cardona treats his subject concisely and clearly, while combining social commentary with artistic expression and creativity. Bearing witness to the desperate conditions taking place in Juárez and alongside the prosperity of its wealthy neighbor, Cardona chronicles the exodus of those trapped within the increasing disparaging socio-economic divide.

The Mexican Cultural Institute provided media support. Opening reception was sponsored by Corona.

The Mexican Cultural Institute is committed to help provide new opportunities to the film industry as well as up-and-coming artists from the Mexican community.



**Al Otro Lado** April 23, 2005

The Mexican Cultural Institute helped coordinate the publicity this documentary at the **TriBeCa Cinema**. The film chronicles the journey of one man who must choose between illegally immigrating to the United States and trafficking drugs to better his life.

**First Nations First Features** May 12-23, 2005

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York helped in the publicity of two films by indigenous directors. **Day 2** by **Dante Carano Bautista** was a documentary about the event-filled second day of a P'urepecha wedding. **Powerful Mountain** by **Crisanto Manzano Avella** was a visual essay that explored the balance between the indigenous people of Oaxaca and their environment.



*Dia 2*



**Mexican Film Festival** June 11-25, 2005

The Museo del Barrio presented Saturday matinees of Mexican classics that featured the Revolution as backdrop in Mexican cinema. Films included the 1934 classic **El Compadre Mexicano** and the more modern **El Tigre de Santa Julia**, 2002. The Mexican Cultural Institute facilitated the screening of these films at El Museo del Barrio.

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Commemoration of the 195<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mexico's Independence**  
September 15, 2005

The Mexican Cultural Institute organized The Official Ceremony of the **"Grito de Independencia"** was celebrated at **The Town Hall** with performances by **Casa Mexico New Jersey** and **Mariachi Juvenil Jiquilpan**. Just as in previous years, Mexican Flags were raised around the city at various hotels and the Empire State Building was lighted with the colors of the Mexican flag.



**92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Street Festival** September 18, 2005

As part of this day-long festival, the Mexican Cultural Institute shared a booth with representatives of Mexicana Airlines and the Mexican Tourism Board and gave information on Mexico and Mexican-related events in the New York City area. UN missions and consulates representing countries from all over the world participated as well. The festival took place on Lexington Avenue from 79<sup>th</sup> to 94<sup>th</sup> Streets and offered free offerings in art, music, sports and fitness, lectures, and many more areas for every age and interest. The outdoor stage featured live music, dance, and spoken word performances.



Music is an integral part of any culture and the Mexican Cultural Institute will continue to offer opportunities for musicians in the many styles they performed from traditional expressions to the most contemporary forms.



### Orquesta de Baja California March 30, 2005

This concert at **Alice Tully Hall** of **Lincoln Center** featured works by **José Alfredo Jiménez**, **Alberto Nuñez Palacio** and **Silvestre Revueltas**. The ensemble was conducted by renowned Spanish guitarist **Angel Romero**.

### Ernesto Villa-Lobos & BAMBA NY June 4, 2005

The style Nuevo Jarocho from Vera Cruz was highlighted in this performance by award-winning violinist **Ernesto Villa-Lobos** at **Joe's Pub**. This form of music features fast-chatting violins, song and traditional music that draw from the region's heritage of Spanish settlers and African slaves. The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York helped in the publicity and provided PR resources for this program.



### Pasatono August 27 & 28, 2005

The Mexican Cultural Institute in collaboration to La Casita of The Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival featured the Mixteco group, **Pasatono**. The band performed at the Gallery of Music Instruments of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and at the Northeast Plaza of the Lincoln Center.

### Chili Pepper Fiesta October 2 - 3, 2005

This two-day festival included free music, dance lessons, cooking classes, kids events and much more, all surrounded by the beautiful **Brooklyn Botanic Gardens**. The Mexican Cultural Institute coordinated the participation of **Ernesto Villa-Lobos & Bamba-NY** for a folk musical performance from Veracruz and the presentation of a culinary demonstration by Besitos restaurant.



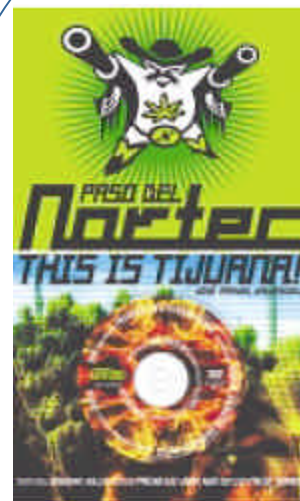


#### Cuarteto de la Ciudad de México October 14, 2005

As part of the **Americas Society 40th Anniversary Celebration**, The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York presented **Mexico City's Quartet** concert which included violinists **Miguel Meisser** and **Oswaldo Urbieta Méndez**, violist **Yulia Dogadaeva** and cellist **Rodrigo Duarte López**. The program included pieces by Paquito D'Rivera and Robert Frank and Mexican music including a world premiere by Arturo Vilella, Silvestre Revueltas' riveting *Música de feria*, Manuel Ponce's *Miniaturas*, Jose Pablo Moncayo's all-time favorite *Huapango* and pieces by Arturo Márquez and Javier Alvarez.

#### Nortec October 31, 2005

As part of Flavorpill's magazine fifth anniversary and Halloween, the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York featured **Nortec**, an electronic ensamble that mixes norteño and tambora sounds with tehno music, at the **Supperclub** following the book launch of **Paso del Nortec: This is Tijuana!** and screenings of *Tijuana Remix & Frontier Life* at the **Cue Art Foundation**. Special guests included Deborah Holtz, Executive Director of Trilce and editor of the book, Ed Morales, New York-based music and cultural critic, Juan Carlos Mena, co-founder of Trilce and co-editor of the book and Nortec members Pedro Beas, Octavio Castellanos, Roberto Mendoza and Ramon Amezcua.



#### Patricia Garcia Torres, Piano November 20, 2005

In commemoration of the 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mexico's Revolution, The Mexican Cultural Institute featured a piano recital by Patricia Garcia Torres at the **Weill Recital Hall of the Carnegie Hall**. The program included works by Mozart, Schumann, Prokofiev, Debussy, and Mexican Composers Castro, Ibarra and Ponce's *Mexican Ballade*.

The Mexican Cultural Institute is committed to the promotion of Mexican writers by presenting their works, facilitating translation, and opening opportunities in literary events and festivals to showcase Mexico's unique literary styles.

#### Presentation of the Book "En la Selva" March 2005

This travel book by **Carlos Tello Diaz** was presented at the Chelsea branch of **Barnes and Noble**. It tells the story of a three-month trip that the author spent in the Lacandon Rain Forest in the southeast of Mexico. The book documents Tello Diaz's journey in search of Tzendales, a Maya city discovered and then mysteriously lost by the Harvard archeologist Alfred Tozzer at the beginning of the twentieth century.

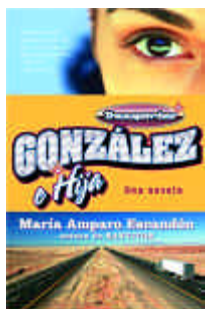


#### PEN World Voices, Festival of International Literature April 16-22, 2005

A week of public readings by writers from all over the world featured Mexican novelist, translator, journalist and biographer **Elena Poniatowska** and **Paco Ignacio Taibó**. These presentations were coordinated and supported by the Mexican Cultural Institute of New York.

#### Presentation of the book "Gritos y Susurros (Cries and Whispers)" May 3, 2005

The presentation of the book *Cries and Whispers: Defining Moments in the Lives of 38 Mexican women* by **Denise Dresser** was hosted at the **Americas Society** and featured comments by the author with final remarks by Jorge Volpi and anecdotes by Elena Poniatowska, Carmen Boullosa and Nina Zambrano. The book is a collection of essays written by 38 prominent Mexican women, including politicians, artists, writers, journalists, actresses, and activists. Also present at the event were Sabina Berman, Laura Esquivel, Guadalupe Loaeza, and Nina Menocal offering revealing, poignant and fascinating glimpses into the private thoughts and lives of public women.



#### Presentation of the book "Transportes González E hija" June 22, 2005

This novel by **María Amparo Escandón**, author of *Santitos*, was premiered in English at the Chelsea branch of **Barnes & Noble** as well as in Spanish at the **Librería Lectorum**. The author was on hand at both events to read excerpts from the novel and available for a book signing afterwards.

### Presentation of the book "La Otra Mano de Lepanto" October 20, 2005

Mexican author **Carmen Boulosa's** new novel presentation at the **Libreria Lectorum**. The Mexican Cultural Institute supported the publicity of this program.



### Gloria Gervitz & Mónica de la Torre October 28, 2005

**The Poets House** in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes and The Mexican Cultural Institute presented **Gloria Gervitz**, one of the leading Mexican poets of the post-Paz generation and **Mónica de la Torre**, co-editor of a landmark collection of contemporary Mexican poetry in a conversation about long poems, translation, Mexican culture and politics, feminism, and personal memory.

### KJCC Poetry Series November 4, 2005

**The King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center** in collaboration with The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York presented bilingual readings of Chilean poet **Marjorie Agosin's** book *Poems for Josefina* and Mexican poet **Gloria Gervitz's** book *Migrations/Migraciones*. Both poets were introduced by Mark Schaffer. Gloria Gervitz's epic poem *Migraciones* (Migrations) was in the process of composition for nearly thirty years, and was finally completed with the publication of a limited edition version of *Septiembre* (September), the seventh book, in 2003. This life's work revolves around themes of memory and history, family and displacement, the diaspora and integration, language and discovery, and is a dramatic affirmation that wonderful poetry continues to come out of Mexico. This book presents the entire text of "Migraciones" in its original Spanish, together with Mark Schaffer's English translation. Gloria Gervitz is a Mexican poet (born 1942, Mexico City) whose work is rooted in memory, the Jewish diaspora, and the crossing of cultures.



### Helen Escobedo: Footsteps in the Sand November 10, 2005

Book presentation held at **The Cooper Union** with the participation of **Helen Escobedo** and art critic **Dore Ashton**. A sculptor and installation artist, Ms. Escobedo engages in a playful dialogue with the urban environment. This retrospective covers five decades of Escobedo's work, is laced with humor (umbrellas become turtles, for instance), and brings for the first time in this city a comprehensive look at an important Mexican artist. Essay by Graciela Schmilchuk with a foreword by Dore Ashton.





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### Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors  
 The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position - modified cash basis of The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, Inc. as of December 31, 2005, and the related statements of activities and changes in net assets - modified cash basis, and functional expenses - modified cash basis for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, Inc. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

As described in Note 1, these financial statements were prepared on the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a comprehensive basis of accounting other than generally accepted accounting principles.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position - modified cash basis of The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York, Inc., as of December 31, 2005, and the change in its net assets - modified cash basis for the year then ended on the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Weiser LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

New York, NY  
 May 31, 2006

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ <u>163,795</u>
Property and equipment:	
Furniture and fixtures	5,675
Equipment	12,774
Website	3,000
Artwork	<u>69,350</u>
	90,799
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>15,801</u>
	<u>74,998</u>
Deposit	<u>500</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>239,293</u></b>
<b>Net assets</b>	
Unrestricted	\$ 180,543
Permanently restricted	<u>58,750</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>239,293</u></b>

## STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

	Permanently <u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
<b>Unrestricted support and revenues</b>			
Business organizations and individuals	\$ -	\$ 237,760	\$ 237,760
Program service revenue	-	157,644	157,644
In-kind contributions	-	250,900	250,900
Membership dues	-	205	205
Reimbursements and other income	<u>-</u>	<u>526</u>	<u>526</u>
<b>Total support and revenues</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>647,035</u>	<u>647,035</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Program services	-	183,647	183,647
Management and general	-	376,558	376,558
Fund raising	<u>-</u>	<u>7,027</u>	<u>17,027</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>577,232</u>	<u>577,232</u>
<b>Increase in net assets</b>	-	69,803	69,803
<b>Net assets</b>			
Beginning of the year	<u>58,750</u>	<u>110,740</u>	<u>169,490</u>
<b>End of the year</b>	<u>\$ 58,750</u>	<u>\$ 180,543</u>	<u>\$ 239,293</u>

## STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

	<u>Fund Raising</u>	<u>Management and General</u>	<u>Program Services</u>	<u>Total</u>
Advertising	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 462	\$ 462
Bank charges	-	10	-	10
Books	-	-	6,668	6,668
Cleaning	-	7,500	-	7,500
Donations	-	250	-	250
Website	-	1,205	-	1,250
Miscellaneous	1,019	805	370	2,194
Other office expenses	-	1,587	1,792	3,379
Promotion	-	22,775	16,137	38,912
Rent – Office	-	216,355	-	216,355
Professional and project fees	-	75,620	104,896	180,516
Supplies	6,894	19,383	2,548	28,825
Telephone and telefax	-	-	8,400	8,400
Postage and shipping	-	5,906	5,449	11,355
Equipment rental and maintenance	-	15,629	-	15,629
Printing and publications	8,874	75	5,418	14,367
Travel	240	6,716	31,507	38,463
Depreciation	-	2,742	-	2,742
	<u>\$ 17,027</u>	<u>\$ 376,558</u>	<u>\$ 183,647</u>	<u>\$ 577,232</u>



## Grants & Contributions received during 2005:

This year, our cultural, academic and community programs were made possible thanks to the generous support of the following individuals, corporations, financial and government institutions, and non-profit organizations:

Carlos & Barbara Jean Abadi	Lopez Negrete Communications
Gloria Anderson	Rocio Lorea Canales
Bank of America	Jorge O. Mariscal
Tony Bechara (Lo Mid Range & Cattle Corp)	Violy McCausland
Dasein Foundation	Ruth Mendez
Barbaralee Diamondstein-Spielvogel	Adolfo Patrón
Alvaro & Rene Domingo	Giulia & Roberto Pesaro
Enrique Norten Architecture / TENArquitectos	Mary Pratt (Mission Photo Production)
First Data Corporation	Armando Rodriguez
Fondo Nacional Para las Culturas y las Artes (Fonca)	Alicia Rodriguez-Guerra
The Gambrinus Company	Kenneth L. Schwartz
Merici Garza-Sada	Hiroko Sotsuka
Cesar Gaviria	Barbaralee Spielvogel
Laurel Gonsalves	Tex-Tube Company
America Gonzalez	David M. & Barbara S. Thomas
Bertha Gonzalez	UBS Financial Services, Inc.
Goya Foods	United Way of New York City
Hector Guillen	Univisión of New Jersey
Raul Mario Gutierrez	Vilore Foods Company, Inc.
Heineken USA	Vitro Corporation
Junta Hispana	Judith S. Weinstein
Ismael Leyva Architects	Western Union Financial Services, Inc.
Edmund Lo	

## In-Kind Contributions

Café Frida  
Conaculta  
Consulate General of Mexico in New York  
Corona  
Dos Equis Imported Beer  
Jose Cuervo Tequila  
La Palapa Restaurant  
Mexicana de Aviación  
Mexico's Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Rocking Horse Café

## Liasions

92 <sup>nd</sup> Street Y	Instituto Cervantes
Agora Gallery	International Center of Photography
Americas Society	International Studio & Curatorial Program (ISCP)
Annabella Gonzalez Dance Theater	Joe's Pub
Ark Restaurants	King Juan Carlos I of Spain Center
The Bard Graduate Center	La Cinemafe Film Festival
Barnes & Noble Chelsea	La Palapa Restaurant
Bronx River Art Center	Librería Lectorum
Brooklyn Botanic Garden	The Lincoln Center Film Society / Latin Beat Festival
Café Frida	Lincoln Center Out-of-Doors Festival
Calpulli Danza Mexicana	Mariachi Champaña Nevín
Cantos Latinos	Medianoche
Carnegie Hall	Mexico Tourism Board
Castle Gallery, The College of New Rochelle	The Mission of Mexico to the United States
Celebrate Mexico Now Festival	Museum of the City of New York
Center for Architecture	NASDAQ
CinemaTropical	National Museum of the American Indian /
Community Services Dept. at the Mexican	Smithsonian Institution
Consulate	New York Foundation for the Arts
Conaculta	PEN World Voices
Consulate General of Mexico in New York	Poets House
The Cooper Union for the Advancement	St. John's University, Committee on Latin American
of Science and Art	and Caribbean Studies (CLACS)
Cue Art Foundation	Synchronicity Space Fine Arts
Cultural Institute of Mexico in Washington	The US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce
Galería Ramis Barquet	The Writers Room
El Museo del Barrio	Thirteen-WNET New York
Fondo Nacional Para las Culturas y las Artes	Zone: Chelsea Center for the Arts
(Fonca)	

The Mexican Cultural Institute of New York would like to thank all individuals, companies and organizations that helped put together our 2005 program with your kind and generous support.

