

The Museum of Modern Art

Mexican Video: Thorn of the Mountain
October 2–December 7, 1997
Garden Hall Video Gallery

Program 1 "Life in the Villages of the Sierra Juarez Mountains"

Crisanto Manzano Avella. *Kujey (Lalopa)*. 1995. 33 min. Avella follows the people of Kujey, known to the Mestizo population as Lalopa, as they piously celebrate Easter week by combining Zapotec and Catholic symbols and rituals.

Crisanto Manzano Avella. *Boda Tradicional (Traditional Wedding)*. 1993. 35 min. In this survey of traditional Zapotec weddings, which often last for three days, Avella focuses on the various ceremonial details.

Total running time: 68 min.

Program 2 "The Indigenous Women of Oaxaca"

Teofila Palafox. *Ollas de San Marcos (San Marcos Pottery)*. 1992. 12 min. A mother and daughter show how pottery is made according to age-old customs in the village of San Marcos Tlapazola.

Ellen Osborn and Maureen Gosling. *A Skirt Full of Butterflies*. 1993. 15 min. A documentary on the Zapotec women of Tehuantepec, whose vivid attire was adopted by artist Frida Kahlo as a tribute to their spirit and strength.

Guadalupe Miranda and Maria Inés Roqué. *Mujeres Zapatista (Zapatista Women)*. 1994. 30 min. Made just prior to the Zapatista uprising in March 1994, indigenous women enlisted in the guerilla forces talk about serving their communities in this atypical role.

Julia Barco. *Un Tantito de Sangre Nade Mas (A Little Bit of Blood)*. 1996. 17 min. Known for her feminist work illuminating women's issues and points of view, Barco interviews Oaxacan women and documents Zapotec prenuptial customs in an examination of the cultural emphasis on virginity.

Total running time: 74 min.

Program 3 "Religious Practices in Oaxaca and Durango"

Egmigdio Julian Caballero. *Danza la Listones (Dance of the Ribbons)*. 1992. 5 min. A courting dance for pubescent boys and girls is performed around a tall pole streaming with colorful ribbons reminiscent of the origins of May Day as a fertility celebration.

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Egmigdio Julian Caballero. *Viko Ndute (Water Festival)*. 1995. 21 min. The annual Water Festival, held in the agricultural community of San Antonio Huitepec, includes the story of its inception recalled through myths, tales of the Spanish conquest, and the founding of the village.

Guillermo Monteforte. *Pidiendo Vido (Petition to Life)*. 1993. 48 min. Monteforte's work depicts an Indian ceremony known as "Xuravét" that invokes saints, water, the eagle, sun, and the morning star in a constant petitioning to life.

Total running time: 74 min.

Program 4 "The Mayan Communities of Chiapas"

Carlos Martinez Suarez. *Sueños y Palabras Sabias de la comunidades Tzotziles y Tzeltales (Dreams and Wise Words from the Tzotziles and Tzeltales Communities)*. 1995. 60 min. In their vernacular language, two Mayan communities from the jungle and highland of Chiapas explain their beliefs and goals.

Program 5 "Pilgrims and Saints"

Juan Francisco Urrusti. *Señor de Otatitlan (Lord of Otatitlan)*. 1991. 27 min. An annual pilgrimage to the sanctuary of Otatitlan, Veracruz, to worship the Black Christ.

Juan Francisco Urrusti. *El Pueblo Mexicano Que Camina (A Long Journey to Guadalupe)*. 1987-96. 97 min. Urrusti traces the veneration of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the "Indian Virgin," and the arduous pilgrimage in her honor, from the Aztec worship of Tonantzin (Mother Earth).

Total running time: 124 min.

Program 6 "Experimental Views from Mexico City"

Ximena Cuevas. *Corazon Sangrante (Bleeding Heart)*. 1993. 4 min. This award-winning music video features Astrid Hadad, in various dramatic guises, singing about a broken heart.

Ximena Cuevas. *Cuerpos de Papel (Paper Bodies)*. 1997. 2 min. A short story about jealousy and mutilation.

Ximena Cuevas. *La Muerta de Lupe Velez, 1984 & 1997 (The Death of Lupe Velez, 1984 & 1997)*. 1997. 3 min. A contemplation on the flirtation with death.

Ximena Cuevas. *Medias Mentiras (Half Lies)*. 1995. 37 min. An experimental look at private life in Mexico City.

Andrea di Castro. *Rosa Pantopón (Pantopone Rose)*. 1995. 7 min. Centered around the poem by William S. Burroughs, and part of a larger CD project on his writings, Castro recorded the late author reading his poem at his home in Lawrence, Kansas, in May 1995. Burroughs's voice was then altered electronically to create the musical soundtrack by Rosino Serrano.

Total running time: 53 min.

Program 7 "Utopian Ideals and a Road Video"

Gregoria Rocha. *A Railroad to Utopia*. 1995. 30 min. A utopian colony established in 1886 in northwestern Mexico by American socialist pioneers.

Gregoria Rocha. *La Flecha (The Arrow)*. 1996. 35 min. An experimental road video about a journey into the director's inner-self while traveling in the desert.

Total running time: 65 min.

Program 8 "Punk Lifestyles"

Sarah Minter. *Alma Punk*. 1992. 56 min. A dramatic story about a young woman living on the margins of society. Disillusioned by her frustrated hopes and dreams, she crosses the border at Tijuana into the U.S.

Program 9 "Tequila and Politics: An Explosive Mix"

Gloria Ribé and José Manuel Pintado. *El Efecto Tequila (The Tequila Effect)*. 1995. 40 min. A male and female voice narrate over this panoply of film footage, from popular Mexican films and news coverage to scenes of contemporary Mexico, in a contemplation of the contradictory aspects of Mexico today.

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