

Unit 3: The Modern Americas

The emergence of modernism defined modern Latin American art over the course of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Beginning with the early constructions of American identities by European “traveler-reporter” artists, modern Latin American art described changing cultural and historical landscapes from Mexico to the Southern Cone. This unit introduces Latin American avant-gardes beginning with the acclaimed Mexican muralists and continuing through modernist stirrings in Brazil and Argentina. The unit concludes with an overview of contemporary Latin American and Latino art and a reflection on broad, course-wide themes relating to the history and present-day identities of Latin American art.

Unit 3 Time Advisory

This unit should take you approximately 32.5 hours to complete.

- Subunit 3.1: 4 hours
- Subunit 3.2: 3 hours
- Subunit 3.3: 6.5 hours
- Subunit 3.3.1: 2 hours
- Subunit 3.3.2: 4.5 hours
- Subunit 3.4: 9.5 hours
- Subunit 3.4.1: 3.5 hours
- Subunit 3.4.2: 4 hours
- Subunit 3.4.3: 2 hours
- Subunit 3.5: 1.5 hours
- Subunit 3.6: 8 hours

Unit 3 Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this unit, the student will be able to:

- Identify and describe representative examples of modern and contemporary Latin American art by style, region, and movement.
- Explain the relationship between modern and contemporary Latin American artworks and the broader social, economic, intellectual, and political contexts in which they functioned and circulated.
- Describe aspects of artistic innovation and continuity over the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the ways in which artists engaged Western and non-Western traditions.
- Discuss modernism in pan-American and transatlantic contexts and trace its evolution through the first half of the twentieth century.
- Describe trends in contemporary art practices across Latin America.
- Explain critical themes related to Latin American art and its relationship to global histories of art.