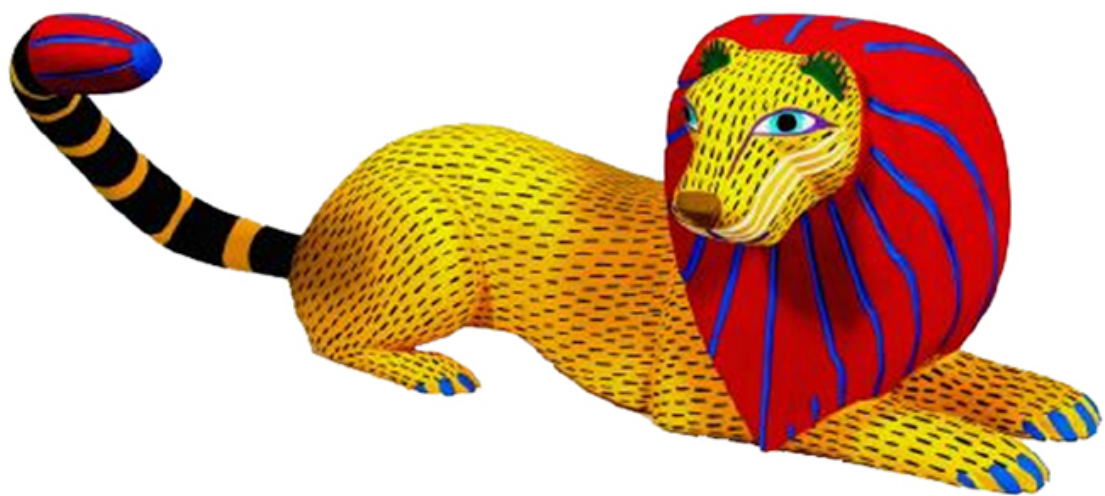# Oaxacan Sculpture

Yellow Oaxacan Lion
Armando Jimenez Aragon
Acrylic on Wood – 8.25″ x 18.5″ x 5″

Artistic Emphasis

The fanciful animal carvings made in a handful of small villages in Oaxaca, Mexico have, in the past 3 decades, become a respected, collectible folk art.

Folk art derives from the daily life and culture of the artists and Oaxacan carvers rely on a culture rich in mythology and magic. Their fanciful, brilliantly colored "animalitos" are based on mythological beings, imagination, and a respect for natural forms. As the sculptures became popular with art collectors, they brought a measure of prosperity to one of Mexico's poorest states. Students are asked to think about what influences an artist and the importance of creating bright art in a bleak world.

Project Description

This is a two part project. During the first session, students use model magic to create small "animalitos." A week later, they paint their sculptures with bright paints and patterns in the Oaxacan style.

Advance Preparation (part one)

- Schedule two dates with your teacher. Remember to check the on-line calendar for conflicts first. _____ _____

- One week prior to each date, check the Fine Arts supply room to make sure all the supplies are in the cabinet.
- The volunteer making the presentation should read through the handbook, located in the Fine Arts supply room, and become familiar with the project narrative and visuals.

Advance Preparation (part two)

- The morning of the day before the project give your teacher copies of the "messy project" reminder to send home (copies in the Fine Arts supply room).
- If possible, go into the classroom the day before to check for appendages that have fallen off of sculptures. Reattach them with toothpicks and Elmer's glue. (The toothpicks are usually essential, as the glue doesn't hold for long on its own. Break off a piece of toothpick and stick it part way into the appendage, add glue to surfaces then push appendage & toothpick into main body of the sculpture.)
- Recommended number of volunteers: 3