

Thinking Together Art History Research Institutes and the Politics of Global Collaboration

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INSTITUTO DE
INVESTIGACIONES
ESTÉTICAS · UNAM
AÑOS

Convened by ARIAH- and IIE-Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas
November 20 and 21, 2025
Mexico City

Mexico's rich artistic heritage and thriving art scene make it an exceptional location for a meeting of art history research institute leaders and scholars in art history. This meeting is organized by the Association of Research Institutes in Art History (ARIAH) and the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas (IIE) at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. The goal is to improve communication and cooperation throughout the Americas. We especially want to strengthen relationships with researchers and institutions in Latin America.

This meeting offers a unique opportunity to discuss how art history and museum research are changing, focusing on the complicated social, political, and financial situations that affect our work today. It is also a moment to recognize and celebrate the important contributions of scholars, curators, and artists in the Americas. Many of these people are already working in our institutions, making important and necessary changes to the discipline.



We will address key questions that speak to the current challenges and possibilities facing our discipline:

- **In light of the current global climate, persistent lack of financial support from governments, and increasingly restrictive immigration policies, how can research institutes collaborate to better support professionals in the history of art and related disciplines?** This includes academics, curators, artists, writers, conservators, media specialists, librarians, and numerous others dedicated to the preservation and study of visual production.
- **What strategies and tools can research institutes adopt to ensure their resilience in such times of crisis?** Furthermore, how can ARIAH provide meaningful support to those most affected by the lack of funding given the political environment?
- **How can ARIAH facilitate the establishment of meaningful and lasting partnerships and collaborations with institutions in Central and South America?**



ARIAH Itinerary – Mexico City

DAY 1 – Thursday, November 20

Venue: Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas (IIE), UNAM [Institute of Aesthetic Research](#)

8:10 AM	OPTIONAL SHUTTLE FROM ROMA/CONDESA TO UNAM MEETING POINT: Parque Luis Cabrera, Roma Norte https://maps.app.goo.gl/yHfGfK5nSFJ8p2Zo9
9:00-9:10AM	Welcome by Angelica Velázquez, Director of IIE Coffee and Mexican pastries will be served.
9:10 – 10:30 AM	<p>Session 1: Current State of Art History Research in Central and South America</p> <p>Panel featuring researchers from Latin America:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sofía Vindas Solano (Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, UNAM) PhD in History from the University of Costa Rica, where she also works as a professor and researcher at the Institute for Research in Art, coordinating the Central American Cultural Heritage Repository. Her work blends academic research, curatorial practice, and teaching, with a focus on political art, international circulation of Central American art, and visual expressions of resistance.• Marisa Baldasarre (Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina -CONICET / Getty Visiting Professor at IIE-UNAM) PhD in Art History from the Universidad de Buenos Aires. Between 2019 and 2023 she was National Director of Museums of the National Ministry of Culture. Her research discusses fashion, self-representation, and the bodies of women and those with feminine identities as they relate to visual culture from the late-nineteenth century through the present.• Natalia Majluf (Independent Art Curator, Peru) Historian and curator specializing in Latin American art and visual culture of the long 19th century. She has edited and co-edited key books and exhibition catalogs on figures such as Francisco Laso, José Gil de Castro, Luis Montero, and Martín Chambi. Former chief curator and director of the Museo de Arte de Lima (2002–2018), she has held fellowships at CASVA, the Getty, and Guggenheim, and taught at Cambridge, Chicago, and UNAM. <p>Moderator: Luis Vargas (IIE-UNAM)</p>

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DAY 1 – Thursday, November 20

Venue: Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas (IIE), UNAM [Institute of Aesthetic Research](#)

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Session 2: ARIAH and Latin America</p> <p>Presentations of new ARIAH members and global initiatives in Latin America.</p> <p>Presentation of new members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• José Tavares Correia de Lira, Museu de Arte Contemporânea da Universidade de São Paulo (MAC USP) <p>Global initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miguel de Baca (Getty Foundation), The Legacy of the Connecting Art Histories Initiative in Latin America (ZOOM)• Kim Richter (Getty Research Center), LALAI-Latin American and Latinx Art Initiative• Jesús Escobar (Northwestern), CIHA Conference 2029 in Mexico City <p>Moderator: Amelia Goerlitz (Smithsonian American Art Museum)*</p>
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<p>Tour of the research facilities at the Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas</p>
1:30 – 2:30 PM	<p>Lunch at Nube Siete, MUAC</p> <p>Meal at the restaurant of the Museo Universitario de Arte Contemporáneo. We reserved a communal table. Everyone will pay their own bill.</p>
2:30 – 5:30 PM	<p>Optional Tour: MUAC and UNAM Historical Campus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guided visit of MUAC exhibition and Espacio Escultórico and UNAM main campus (UNESCO World Heritage Site) <p>Feel free to invite your plus ones!</p> <p>*Shuttle will be provided from MUAC.</p>
6:00 PM	<p>Welcome Dinner at Tetetlán</p> <p>Tetetlán is a unique cultural and culinary venue located in the Pedregal neighborhood next to UNAM campus. Housed in a restored horse stable designed by renowned architect Luis Barragán, Tetetlán blends contemporary design with natural volcanic rock formations and mid-century modern aesthetics.</p> <p>For ARIAH Board Members and Participants only.</p> <p>*Shuttle will be provided from UNAM main campus in front of the Rectoría.</p>

ARIAH Itinerary – Mexico City

DAY 2 – Friday, November 21

Venue: Museo Nacional de Arte (MUNAL-INBAL) [National Art Museum](#)

8:10 AM	OPTIONAL SHUTTLE FROM ROMA/CONDESA TO MUNAL MEETING POINT: Parque Luis Cabrera, Roma Norte https://maps.app.goo.gl/yHfGfK5nSFJ8p2Zo9
9:00-9:10 AM	Welcome by Mireida Velázquez, Director of MUNAL Coffee and Mexican pastries will be served.
09:10–11:00 AM	Session 3: ARIAH General Meeting (members only) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda TBA by ARIAH Chair
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM	Session 4: Roundtable with Art History Graduate Students <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductory remarks by Claudia Garay Molina, Art History PhD, IIE.
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Lunch on your own, stroll around downtown! We recommend El Cardenal nearby MUNAL. El Cardenal, one of Mexico City's most beloved traditional restaurants. Known for its refined approach to classic Mexican cuisine, El Cardenal has been a culinary institution since 1969.
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Guided Tour of MUNAL Guided tour of the museum's permanent exhibition. Feel free to invite your plus ones!
3:30 – 6:00 PM	Cultural Tour of Historic Downtown This walking tour offers a rich introduction to key murals and landmark buildings in Mexico City's historic center. Led by IIE-UNAM faculty members, participants will explore major sites where art, politics, and urban history intersect. Highlights include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Colegio de San Ildefonso: Visit its most important murals by Orozco, Siqueiros, and Rivera.• Zocalo: Visit the main square and admire the Metropolitan Cathedral and National Palace from the outside. Feel free to invite your plus ones!

Optional Saturday Tour

FRIDA KAHLO and ANAHUACALLI

Visit two iconic spaces in southern Mexico City that reflect the life, art, and political vision of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera.

Duration: ~6 hours (FREE TICKETS)

9:10 am Shuttle from Parque Luis Cabrera, Roma Norte

RSVP IN ADVANCE TO ACCOMMODATE TRANSPORT

10:00am - 11:30 am (15 person group)

10:30am-12pm (15 person group)

We will be divided into two groups and we will access with half hour difference

Frida Kahlo Museum (La Casa Azul): Located in the heart of Coyoacán, the former home of Frida Kahlo offers an intimate view of her personal belongings, artwork, and the spaces where she lived and painted.

11:30 am -2:00 pm

Lunch break on your own

Suggested places: Coyoacán Market, Cancino Pizzeria, Azul Maguey

2:00 pm

Shuttle departs from Casa Azul to Museo Anahuacalli

2:30pm - 4:30pm

Museo Anahuacalli: Designed by Diego Rivera to house his vast collection of pre-Columbian art, this volcanic-stone structure is both a museum and a conceptual bridge between Indigenous heritage and modern Mexican identity.

4:30 pm

Shuttle departs from Museo Anahuacalli to Parque Luis Cabrera

