



Following her highly popular visit last year, Alma Aragón returns this year for three very special days to exhibit and demonstrate her delightful work:

*Talavera Ceramics & Tile,
1801 University Ave., Berkeley*

*Friday, Saturday, and Sunday,
October 9, 10, and 11.*

Together with her husband, the celebrated Zapotec artist Saúl Aragón, Alma Aragón creates some of the finest decorated wooden figures from Oaxaca, Mexico. Talavera Ceramics & Tile is honored to welcome Alma Aragón on her return to Berkeley.

The Aragóns live and work in San Antonio Arrazola, Xoxocotlán, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca, and draw the inspiration for much of their work from the pre-Columbian Zapotec traditions of their native region. Their medium is the wood of the local copal tree. They work in the rich tradition of the imaginative carvings known as alebrijes, a tradition that has acquired a worldwide following.

In addition to producing their own captivating carvings, the Aragóns are ecological pioneers who have inspired their fellow artists through their leadership in the nurture of the copal trees on which their art depends. They were founders in 2004 of a group whose primary purpose is the preservation and renewal of the environment that sustains the copal trees. The Ecoalebrijes Association sets an influential example for sustainable harvesting, while supporting the traditional craft culture and discouraging emigration away from Oaxaca.

Following an invitation from the University of Iowa in 2002, the couple have regularly exhibited and demonstrated their art in the United States. In 2004, Saul Aragón represented the Ecoalebrijes Association as a delegate to the International Congress for the Conservation of the Environment in Bangkok, Thailand. Since 2007 the couple have annually been featured participants in programs relating to art, the environment, and Mexican culture at California State University at San Jose, appearances that have won them a loyal following in the Bay Area.

Alma Aragón's visit will be of particular interest to Bay Area travelers who are familiar with the delightful work of the Oaxacan carvers and to collectors of Mexican art, as well as to those with an interest in sustainable agriculture. And of course this art form holds special charm for children.