

Saúl Aragón, innovative Mexican artist, exhibits & demonstrates his work in Berkeley

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Following his very popular visits in past years, Saúl Aragón, the highly regarded Zapotec artist and ecological pioneer, from Oaxaca, Mexico, will again exhibit and demonstrate his celebrated art at Talavera Ceramics & Tile, 1801 University Ave., in Berkeley, for three days: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, October 12th, 13th, and 14th.

Aragón and his wife and fellow artist Alma, who exhibited her work here at Talavera last year, live and work in San Antonio Arrazola, Xoxocotlán, in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. They 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 have inspired their fellow artists through their leadership in the ecological 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, Saúl 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.

Talavera Ceramics & Tile in Berkeley is honored once again to host Saúl Aragón's three-day visit to the Bay Area. His 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.

Summary details:

Saúl Aragón, Mexican artist and ecological pioneer, exhibits and demonstrates his work,
Friday and Saturday, October 12 and 13, from 10am to 6pm,
and on Sunday, October 14, from 12 to 6.

Talavera Ceramics & Tile, 1801 University Avenue, Berkeley

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