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Left: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *La escuela* (The School), 1937. Gouache, charcoal and watercolor on newsprint. SBMA, Gift of the P.D. McMillan Land Company, 1963.30.
Right: Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *Mujeres con flores* (Women with Flowers), ca. 1946. Tempera and Conté crayon on newsprint. SBMA, Gift of the P.D. McMillan Land Company, 1963.32.1
All images are © The Alfredo Ramos Martínez Research Project.

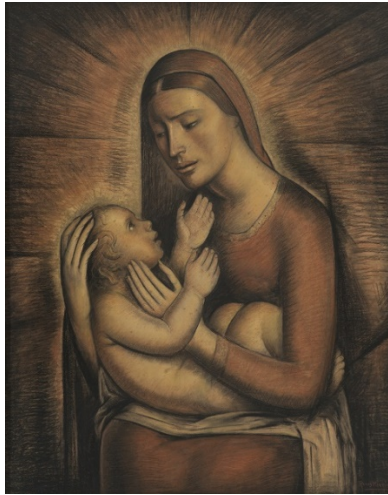
Alfredo Ramos Martínez: On Paper

On view October 27, 2019 – February 9, 2020

September 16, 2019 — Alfredo Ramos Martínez (1871–1946) was a pivotal figure in the modernist development of Mexican art. He spent his formative years immersed in the artistic life of Paris, returning to Mexico in 1910 on the eve of the country's Revolution. After becoming director of the famed Escuela Nacional de Bellas Artes in Mexico City, he established the nation's first open air schools and encouraged his pupils to create work that captured observations of daily life. In 1929, Ramos Martínez and his family relocated to Los Angeles. For the next two decades, his subject matter focused on the people and culture of Mexico, with the artist receiving many notable mural commissions throughout Southern California. His canvases depict indigenous traditions, local crafts, and religious icons painted in striking hues of umber and sienna accented by bold highlights of color.

While Ramos Martínez was celebrated as a painter, some of his most iconic works were created on paper. Said to have always carried a Conté crayon in his pocket, the artist frequently drew on newspaper—the printed columns of text supporting totem-like figures of flower vendors. Working in combinations of gouache, charcoal, Conté crayon, and watercolor, he perfected a signature style in which forms were reduced to essentials to create a structural scaffolding across the paper's surface. *Alfredo Ramos Martínez: On Paper* is an intimate exhibition of works from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's permanent collection. Comprising seven drawings, as well as two serigraphs created by his wife María Sodi de Ramos Martínez after his death, the exhibition showcases the artist's extraordinary draftsmanship, revealing the layered sensibility in his chosen themes.

Alfredo Ramos Martínez: On Paper is curated by Rachel Heidenry, Curatorial Assistant, Contemporary Art, and presented in both English and Spanish in the Works on Paper room of SBMA's Ridley-Tree Gallery.



Alfredo Ramos Martínez, *Virgen y niño* (Virgin and Child), 1935. Charcoal and gilt paint on paper.
SBMA, Gift of Mrs. John M. Case in memory of John Hopkins Denison, Jr., 1952.22. © The Alfredo Ramos Martínez Research Project.

Related Programming:

Sunday, October 27, 1 – 4 pm

Día de los Muertos

For the 30th year, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art honors the Mexican tradition of remembering the dead with a variety of family festivities in the galleries, Family Resource Center, and back plaza including music, dance performances, art-making activities, a special display of altars created by school and community groups, and traditional refreshments.

Free

Sunday, November 10, 1:30 – 4:30 pm

Bilingual Tours

Enjoy guided exhibition tours conducted in Spanish and English during the Museum's Studio Sunday activities in the Family Resource Center. The day also features live music by Jorge Pokok Mijangos and refreshments.

Free

- 1:45 – Spanish language tour
- 2:15 – English language tour
- 2:45 – Spanish language tour
- 3:15 – English language tour
- 3:45 – Spanish language tour
- 4:15 – English language tour

Thursday, November 14, 6 – 6:30 pm

Curatorial Walkthrough

Learn more about the artist's life and work in a curator-led tour of the exhibition. RSVP required, space is limited.

Free

To reserve a spot, email communityprograms@sbma.net.

Sunday, January 26, 2 – 3:15 pm

Santa Barbara Cemetery Mural Tour

Learn about Alfredo Ramos Martínez's murals in a guided tour at the chapel of the Santa Barbara Cemetery. Designed by architect George Washington Smith, the chapel tells a fascinating story about early art patronage in Santa Barbara. Ramos Martínez was invited to paint a mural in the chapel in 1934, and the resulting work is an extraordinary example of the artist's style and thematic interests. The presentation will include a brief talk on the history of the chapel by David Petry, historian and author of *The Best Last Place: A History of the Santa Barbara Cemetery*, followed by a discussion of the murals by Rachel Heidenry, curator of *Alfredo Ramos Martínez: On Paper*. RSVP required, space is limited. Rain or shine, with time subject to change based on cemetery schedule.

\$5 SBMA Members and Students/\$10 Non-Members

Questions may be directed to: communityprograms@sbma.net

Visit www.sbma.net/events for updated information.

#AlfredoRamosMartinez #OnPaperSBMA #EnPapelSBMA

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is one of the finest museums on the West coast and is celebrated for the superb quality of its permanent collection. Its mission is to integrate art into the lives of people through internationally recognized exhibitions and special programs, as well as the thoughtful presentation of its permanent collection.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.
Open Tuesday – Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm
805.963.4364 www.sbma.net