



“Art is a means of expression that must be understood by everybody, everywhere. It grows out of the earth, the textures of our lives, and our experience.” — Rufino Tamayo

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Rufino Tamayo was twelve years old when he arrived in Mexico City to live with relatives after the death of his parents. He had been born in 1899 in Oaxaca, traditional home of indigenous Zapotec families from whom his father was descended. There, he had experienced the beauty and pattern of Oaxacan traditional dress as well as the simplified forms of its ancient crafts. In Mexico City he lived near an open-air market full of the vibrant colors of fruits, vegetables, spices, and flowers. These images stayed with him when, after high school, he began training for a career as an artist. Tamayo lived for many years in New York and Paris and, although impacted by the art he saw there, he never forgot those early influences. In 1964 Tamayo returned to Mexico City and lived there until his death in 1991.

His story continues in what he left behind, not only his own artwork, but two museums — the Museo Rufino Tamayo, designed by the artist and built in Mexico City; and a second museum in Oaxaca that holds his collection of ancient Meso American artifacts. You can visit these places in Mexico today, and see Tamayo’s work at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. These coloring pages reference just two of his many paintings, drawings, and sculptures included in our collection.

LOOKING CLOSELY

Tamayo was fascinated with the sky and what he called the “cosmos.” He saw in the stars, the sun, and the moon a connection to the ancient myths of Mexico. He also saw a link to the future, to space exploration and man walking on the moon. This painting, *Night and Day*, is full of pairs of opposites (like the night and day of the title). How many can you find? At the bottom of the painting, Tamayo shows us the curve of the earth, just as an astronaut would see it from space. At the same time, he captures the eternal magic of a shooting star. Have you ever made a wish on a star or seen the face of the man in the moon? Color your version in Tamayo’s colors or choose your own palette. Add a star or create a comet or other celestial body.

