

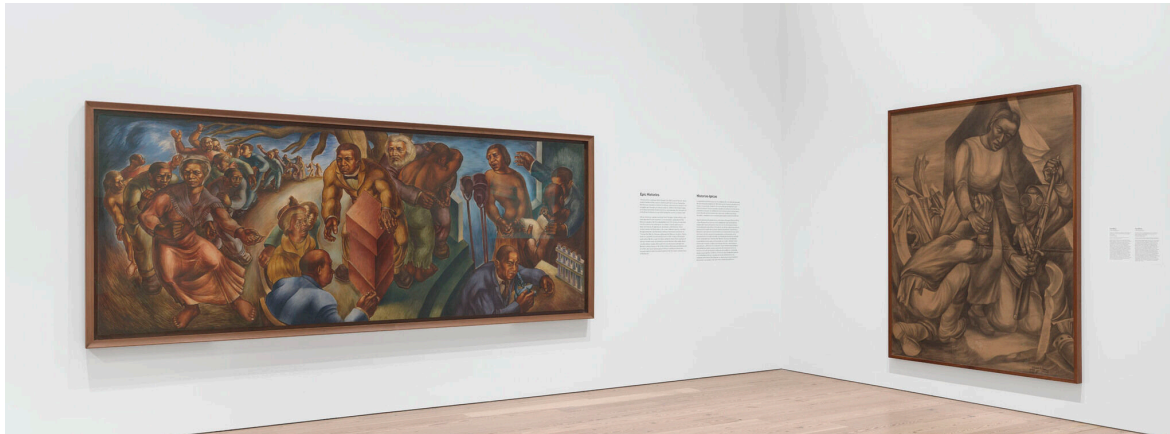
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FINE ARTS
SOCIETY OF PEORIA

December 9, 2021 @ 10:00 AM
Peoria Riverfront Museum
222 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL

VIDA AMERICANA: MEXICAN MURALISTS REMAKE AMERICAN ART, 1925-1945

lecture by Sarah Humphreville, Whitney Museum of American Art



Installation view of *Vida Americana: Mexican Muralists Remake American Art, 1925-1945* (Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, February 17-May 17, 2020). Left to right: Charles White, *Progress of the American Negro: Five Great American Negroes*, 1939–40; Edward Millman, *Cartoon for Contribution of Women to the Progress of Mankind mural*, Lucy Flower High School, Chicago, Illinois, 1936. Photograph by Ron Amstutz.

Mexico underwent a radical cultural transformation at the end of its Revolution in 1920, giving rise to art that spoke directly to the people about social justice and national life. The model galvanized artists in the United States who were seeking to break free of European aesthetic domination to create publicly significant and accessible native art. Numerous American artists traveled to Mexico, and the leading Mexican muralists – José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera, and David Alfaro Siqueiros – spent extended periods of time in the United States, creating murals, paintings, drawings, and prints; exhibiting their work; and interacting with local artists.

This talk, developed from the Whitney Museum of American Art's exhibition of the same name, will examine the profound impact the Mexican muralists had on their counterparts in the United States in the interwar period and the ways in which their example inspired American artists to create epic narratives about American history and everyday life, and to use their art to protest economic, social, and racial injustices.



Sarah Humphreville is a Senior Curatorial Assistant at the Whitney Museum of American Art, and works with the Drawing and Print Committee and American Fellows patron group. She holds an M.A. from the Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. She received a B.A., summa cum laude, in art history, and a B.F.A. in painting with a minor in drawing from Cornell University. Previously she was employed by the Jewish Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, and galleries in New York and Los Angeles.

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