

present

A World of Art

PROJECTS FOR KIDS



Animal Whimsy

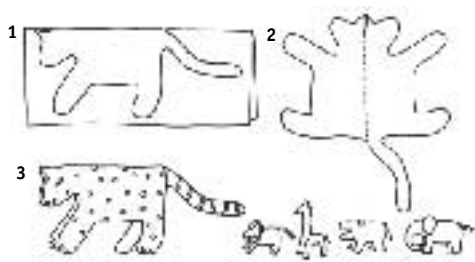
Mexican folk art combines whimsy, imagination & color in creative art pieces. Animals ride bikes, devils dance, & birds preen. Often creatures have combined parts of many animals & take on the life of people. Draw an unusual animal doing something you do each day. Color it brightly.

Tin Animal

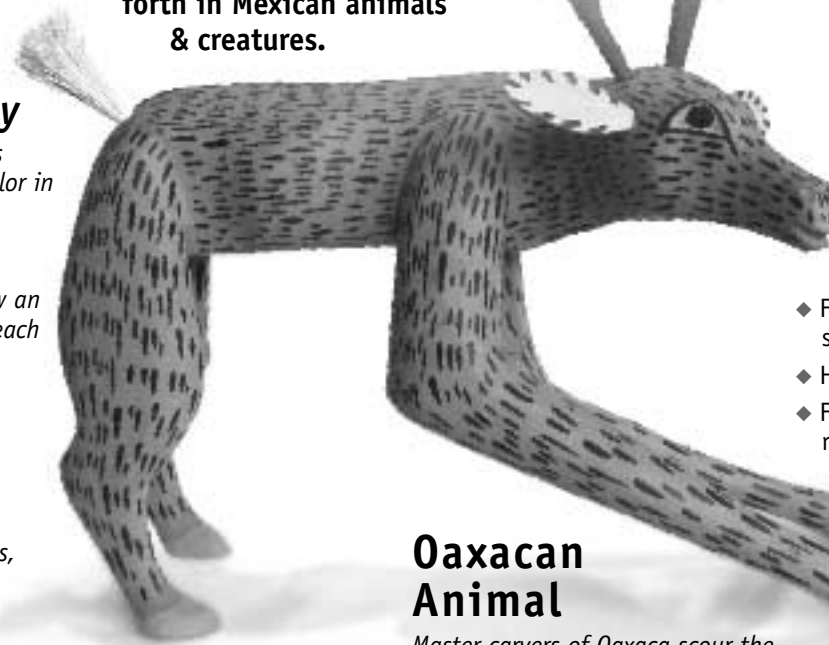
For centuries Mexican artisans have worked with metals such as gold, silver & tin. Today, folk artists cut, score, bend & emboss silver & tin to make jewelry, masks, milagros, nichos, ornaments & animals. The imaginative tin designs are often painted with bright, transparent enamel paints.



- ◆ Practice on paper to design a 3-D animal.
- ◆ Trace & cut animal shape from aluminum. (Use lightweight pie tin or 38 gauge aluminum sheets from art supply source.)
 - ◆ Lay aluminum on folded newspapers. Press firmly with pencil to emboss designs. Color with permanent markers.
 - ◆ Bend animal into 3-d shape.



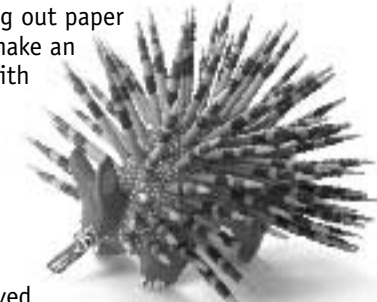
MEXICO Mexican folk art is enmeshed with festivals, religious ceremonies & ancient traditions. Pots, fabrics & jewelry are carefully handcrafted. Mystery, magic, whimsy & imagination burst forth in Mexican animals & creatures.



Oaxacan Animal

Master carvers of Oaxaca scour the landscape for twisted & bent branches to carve into animals & imaginative creatures. They combine & cut wood pieces bringing the carving to life. Bright base colors & intricate surface patterns decorate the whimsical creatures.

- ◆ Make a paper version of a wooden Oaxacan animal.
- ◆ "Collect your wood" by looking at real branches & outlining shapes on brown construction paper. Draw large.
- ◆ "Carve your wood" by cutting out paper branch pieces. Combine to make an animal shape. Trim lightly with scissors to change shapes.
- ◆ "Paint your wood" with bright base colors. Let dry. Add intricate patterns & designs. Mount animal on contrasting paper.
- ◆ Admire many more hand carved animals at: <http://www.oaxacafinecarvings.com/>



Clay Animal Candleholder

Mexican ceramicists pinch clay into clever & imaginative forms. Potters from Puebla make a decorative Arbol de Vida or The Tree of Life, combining a tree-shaped candlestick with whimsical animal, bird & flower shapes. Others make candlesticks of the animals themselves.

- ◆ Mold a clay animal by rolling clay ball into basic animal shape.
- ◆ For birds, pinch pear shape into neck & wings. For deer, divide ends of tube shape into legs. Score adjoining parts to add head & neck.
- ◆ Hollow out bodies so parts are no thicker than your thumb.
- ◆ For candleholder, press clay flat, cut a rectangle & roll it into a tube. Score joining edges & press together.
- ◆ Let dry & fire clay in kiln to harden. Paint with bright colors.



Piñata

Birthdays are special times for Mexican children. They often celebrate with friends & family, eating favorite foods & smashing a piñata filled with goodies. Make your own piñata by covering a balloon with layers of papier-mâché (newspaper strips & wallpaper paste). When dried, cut a hole, fill with candy, hang it up & smash away!



ARTS FOR ALL!

Activities & content created by



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Look in the Mercury News

- ◆ Cinco de Mayo or the 5th of May is a time to celebrate Latino culture, Mexican unity & patriotism. Search the paper for news & events that celebrate Cinco de Mayo.
- ◆ In addition to art, Mexican culture is rich in music & dance. Look for upcoming performances featuring these.