

## Spencer Art Reference Library

### Library Guide

Painted Worlds: Color and Culture in Mesoamerican Art



(Detail) *Codex Land (Codex Mictlan)*, Mexican Pre-Hispanic, possibly 15th century

### Resource List | 2025

Color was an important aspect of Mesoamerican Art. Indigenous artists created objects painted with rich colors that represented their culture's view of place, time, and the cosmos. Created in conjunction with the exhibition, *Painted Worlds: Color and Culture in Mesoamerican Art*, this bibliography includes many different topics related to Mesoamerican art. We have included information about the exhibition, books on Mesoamerican codices, titles on the art and history of Mesoamerican cultures, and expanded to include the history of color worldwide. Links on the list that include an \* are part of the library's subscription databases are only accessible within the museum or after logging in.

If you have questions, please contact the reference staff at the Spencer Art Reference Library (telephone 816-751-1216). Library hours and services are listed on the Museum's website at <https://nelson-atkins.org/library/>

Selected by:

Roberta Wagener | Senior Specialist, Access Services

## **Painted Worlds Exhibition**

Magaloni, Diana, Davide Domenici and Alyce de Carteret. *We Live in Painting: The Nature of Color in Mesoamerican Art*. Los Angeles: Los Angeles County Museum of Art; New York: DelMonico Books, 2024.

Call No: F1434.2 .A7 M34 2024

The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. “Painted Worlds: Color and Culture in Mesoamerican Art,” November 1, 2025–February 8, 2026. Accessed May 29, 2025. <https://nelson-atkins.org/art/exhibitions/painted-worlds-color-and-culture-in-mesoamerican-art/>

## **Florentine Codex and Codex Laud**

*The World of the Aztecs in the Florentine Codex*. Florence: Mandragora, 2007.

Call No: F1219.73 .W67 2007

*Digital Florentine Codex: Encyclopedia of 16th-Century Indigenous Mexico*. Los Angeles: J. Paul Getty Trust, 2023. Accessed February 12, 2025. <https://florentinecodex.getty.edu/>

Peterson, Jeanette Favrot and Kevin Terraciano, eds. *The Florentine Codex: An Encyclopedia of the Nahua World in Sixteenth-Century Mexico*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2019.

Call No: F1219.56 .C7552 F56 2019

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*Codex Laud* (MS Laud Misc. 678): Bodleian Library, Oxford, facsimile. Graz: Akademische Druck- u. Verlagsanstalt (ADEVA), 1966. <https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/7f3d2646-088e-4686-87a6-2c2cf20f413e/> Call No: Special F1219 .C63 1966

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Call No: F1219.76 .R45 B66 2007

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Call No: F1218.6 .B66 2020

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Call No: F1219.5 .B76 1995

Jansen, Maarten E.R.G.N., Perez Jimenez, Gabina Aurora. *Codex Bodley: A Painted Chronicle from the Mixtec Highlands, Mexico*. Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2005.

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Call No: F1434.2 .A7 S78 no. 36

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Nutall, Zelia. *The Codex Nutall: A Picture Manuscript from Ancient Mexico: The Peabody Museum Facsimile*. New York: Dover Publications, 1975.

Call No: F1219 .C7 1975

Paxton, Merideth. *The Cosmos of the Yucatec Maya: Cycles and Steps from the Madrid Codex*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2001.

Call No: F1435.3 C14 P388 2001

## **Visiting artist Porfirio Gutierrez**

“Home Page”, Porfirio Gutierrez, Accessed April 4. 2025.

<https://www.porfiriogutierrez.com/>

Stukin, Stacie. "Porfirio Gutierrez Brings his Reinterpreted Traditional Weaving Techniques Home," *Art News*, February 9, 2024. Accessed February 12, 2025.

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### Mesoamerican Art and Cultures

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Call No: F1219.3 .S38 B88 2004

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Call No: F1219.73 .A98 2002

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Call No: F1219.8 .O56 O563 1995

Diehl, Richard A. *The Olmecs: America's First Civilization*. New York: Thames and Hudson, 2004.  
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### Image Credits

(Detail) *Codex Land (Codex Mictlan)*, Mexican, Pre-Hispanic, possibly 15th century

. Painting on gesso ground, deerskin with covers of jaguar skin, each page: approx. 6 1/2 x 6 1/8 inches. Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford, MS. Laud Misc. 678. Photo © Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

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