

## Artist Resources – Rufino Tamayo (Mexican, 1899-1991)

[Tamayo at SAAM](#)

[Tamayo at the Art Institute of Chicago](#)

[Tamayo at MoMA](#)

[Museo Rufino Tamayo](#)



Tamayo, 1945  
Photograph: Carl Van Vechten

Read translated documents about Tamayo that were digitized through the International Center for the Arts of the Americas at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston [Documents of Latin American and Latino Art](#).

In 1978, Tamayo conducted an [interview](#) that is now stored in the Smithsonian’s Archives of American Art.

[Rufino Tamayo: Myth and Magic](#) was a major retrospective held at the Guggenheim in 1979. Listen to a [conversation](#) between the artist and Thomas M. Messer from the time of the exhibition’s planning.

Read an extensive [review](#) of *Rufino Tamayo: 70 años de creacion*, which was on display at the Palacio de Arte Internacional Rufino Tamayo in 1987.

In 1990, the New York Times published a [profile](#), “From Exile to Idol: Rufino Tamayo at 91.” The newspaper published his [obituary](#) six months later.

[Tamayo: A Solitary Mexican Modernist](#) was on display at the National Gallery of Canada in 2016. Read an [article](#) about the exhibition by Sheila Singhal in the National Gallery’s Magazine.

The Smithsonian American Art Museum launched [Tamayo: The New York Years](#) in 2017. It was “the first exhibition to explore the influences between this major Mexican modernist and the American art world.” Read an article in [Smithsonian Magazine](#) by Roger Catlin, “A Mexican Painter Changed by the City, Changes Art.”

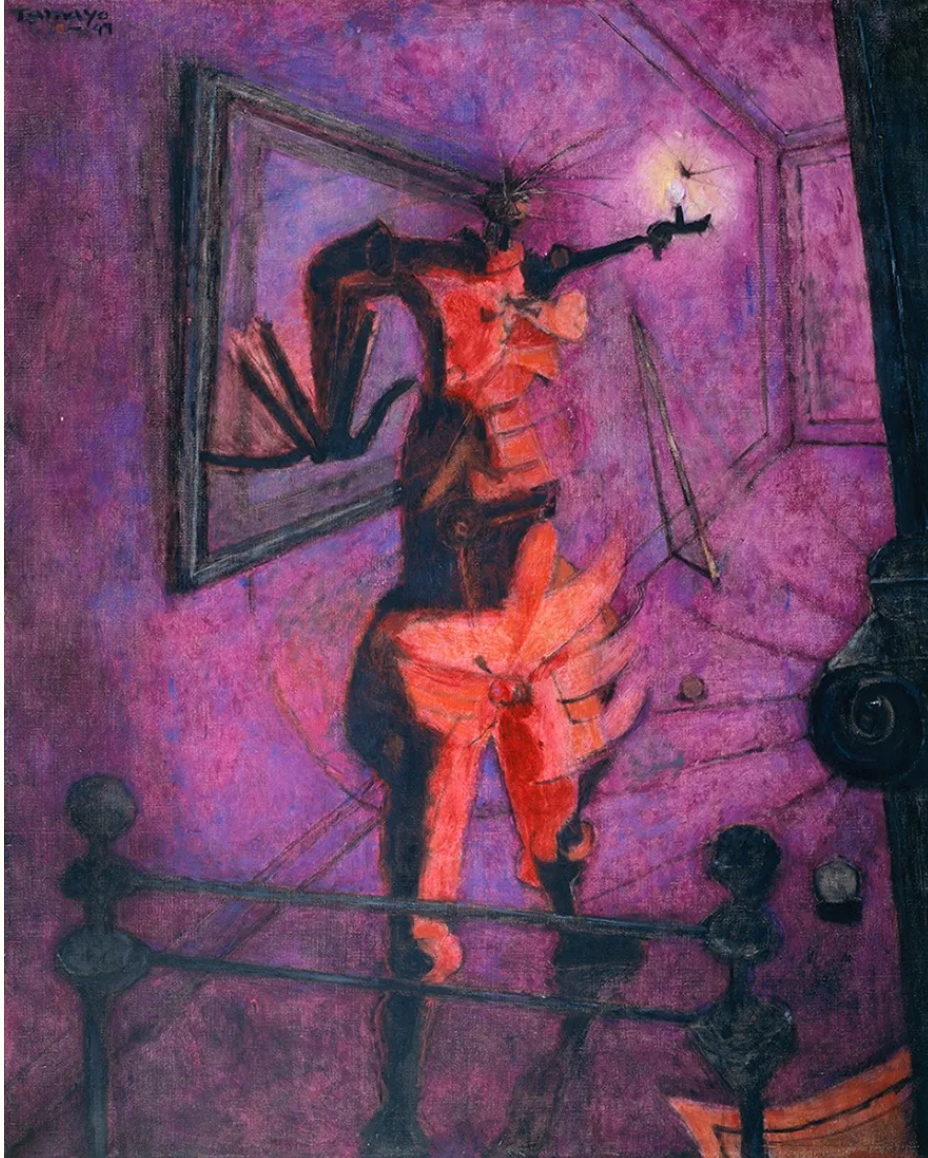
*Rufino Tamayo* was at the [Figge Art Museum](#) in 2018, showcasing seven prints from the museum’s collection.

In 2019-2020, the Bowers Museum installed [Dimensions of Form: Tamayo and Mixografía](#), showing 50 prints and an 1,800-pound lithographic stone plate. Read a review of the exhibition in the [LA Times](#).

[Rufino Tamayo: Innovation and Experimentation](#) was on display at LACMA in 2019-2020. Read a review in [Apollo Magazine](#) and watch a [zoom conversation](#) about the exhibition with Mixografía director Shaye Remba, who was zooming in from Tamayo’s gallery workshop.



Tamayo, 1965  
Photograph: Cornell Capa/Magnum



Rufino Tamayo (Mexican, 1899-1991)

**Mujer temblorosa (Trembling Woman)**, 1949

Oil on canvas

Private Collection, Los Angeles; L2023:80.1

Rufino Tamayo began exploring the intersections of European Modernism, pre-Columbian art, and his Zapotec heritage in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. He often split his time between New York and Mexico City, fusing inspiration from Cubism, Surrealism, and Mexican culture. In the 1940s, Tamayo worked on a series of paintings focused on personifications of fear. **Mujer temblorosa (Trembling Woman)** is an evocative depiction of this theme. A woman moves through a claustrophobic, candlelit hallway, her jagged limbs suggesting trembling movement. The bruise-like colors and unsettling scene implies an anxious dream or a subconscious reflection of intense fear. As Tamayo once said: “I always thought that painting must be born of untiring exploration and be in open communication with all that affects other human activities and reality.”

*On view August 23 – November 26, 2023*