

## OLLI at Duke Fall 2019

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North Carolina Museum of Art

Lectures: Wednesdays, 11:00-12:30

### ***Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera: Mexican Modernism***

October 9: What is Mexican Modernism?

#### Major Slide Titles (NCMA BOLD)

- Georgia O'Keeffe & Alfred Steiglitz      Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera
- Pre-Columbian MesoAmerica
- Fritz Henle, *Frida in her studio*, 1943      Frida and Diego Rivera in his studio
- Frida holding Olmec jade work
- Anahuacalli Museum of Pre-Hispanic      Pyramid in the courtyard of the Blue House
- Diego Rivera, National Palace      Diego Rivera, National Palace
- Mural of The Jaguar People in Veracruz      Mural of the Aztec city of Tenochtitlan
- Ceremonial Ax, Olmec, from Le Venta      Colossal head, Olmec, from Le Venta
- Jade, 1200-400 B.C. British Museum      Basalt, 1500-300 B.C. 8' high
- **Seated Figure. Olmec, c.800-400 B.C.**      Seated Figure, Olmec, 12<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> century
- **Terracotta with traces of paint, NCMA**      Ceramic, pigment, Metropolitan Museum
- **Veracruz, Standing Female Deity or Deity Imposter, c. 600-900,**
- **Ceramic with white & black paint, NCMA**
- Teotihuacán
- Aerial view of Teotihuacán Valley
- Incense burners in the MFA Boston
- **Incesario, Guatemalen, c. 300-600**      **Incesario, Guatemalan, Maya c.350-550**
- **Terracotta, NCMA**      **Terracotta, NCMA**
- Chichén Itzá
- map with Chichén Itzá      Castle (Castillo)
- Chichén Itzá, plan of grounds
- Ball Player, Ceramic, Metropolitan Museum      ball court reimagined
- Youtube reenactment of ball game
- Ball Court at Chichén Itzá      **Ball Court Marker, Maya,**
- Diagram of ball court      **600-900, NCMA**
- Cylinder Vase, Maya 8<sup>th</sup> Century, **NCMA**

#### Modernism

- Picasso with his African collection      Rivera with his Mexican collection
- Monet, Cezanne, Seurat, Gauguin, and Van Gogh
- Picasso. Matisse, Kandinsky, Kirchner
- Picasso's Bulls      Kandinsky abstraction

## Modernism ideas:

1. Painting is about painting, not about representation. Emphasis on the formal properties of design and the painted surface itself as the CONTENT of the painting.
  2. Interest in experimental materials, techniques and processes.
  3. Abstraction through simplification of the form, as we see in this series of Picassos where the form of the bull is simplified to discover the essence of the bull.
  4. On the other hand, abstraction could be pure non-objective abstraction, whereas in this Kandinsky, color, line and shape represent the final product.
  5. Modernism was driven by various social and political agendas. These were often utopian, and modernism was in general associated with ideal visions of human life and society and a belief in progress.
- Diego Rivera, Man, *Controller of the Universe (Man in the Time Machine)*, 1934. Fresco, Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City
  - Thomas Hart Benton's mural "America Today," 1930-31, 10 panels, American Wing, Metropolitan Museum of Art.
  - Instruments of Power, panel from "America Today"
  - Charles Sheeler, *Upper Deck*, 1929      *Rolling Power*, 1939  
Oil on canvas, Fogg Museum, Harvard      Oil on canvas, Smith College
  - Robert Delaunay, *Hommage to Blerio*, 1914      Tullio Crali, *Arobats in the Sky*, 1932  
Kunstmuseum, Basel
  - Diego Rivera, Man, *Controller of the Universe (Man in the Time Machine)*, 1934. Fresco, Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City
  - **Lyonel Feininger (American) 1871-1956**      **Marsden Hartley, American (1877-1943)**  
*active in Germany 1887-1937, The Green Bridge*, 1916, Oil on canvas, NCMA      *Indian Fantasy*, 1914, Oil on canvas  
NCMA
  - **Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880-1938)**      **Karl Schmidt-Rottluff (1884-1976)**  
*Panama Girls*, 1911, NCMA      *Portrait of Emy*, 1919 NCMA
  - David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896-1974) *The End of the World*, 1936, Fogg Museum, Harvard
  - Max Ernst (German) 1891-1976      Joan Miro (Spanish) 1893-1983  
*Elephant from Celebes*, 1921      *Harlequin Carnival*, 1924-25 Oil on Canvas  
Oil on canvas, Tate Gallery, London      Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, NY
  - Frida Kahlo, *Self-portrait on the border between Mexico and the United States of America*, 1932      Frida Kahlo, *Henry Ford Hospital (The Flying Bed)*, 1932
  - Josef Albers, *Ballcourt at Monte Albán*      Josef Albers, *Untitled Abstraction*, c. 1940  
c. 1936-37, Gelatin silver print      Oil on blotting paper  
The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation      The Josef and Anni Albers Foundation
  - Albers photo collection from Mexico
  - Josef Albers (Germany) 1888-1976      Josef Albers (Germany) 1888-1976  
*Homage to the Square: "New Planting,"* 1956      *Study for Homage to the Square: "Veil,"* 1958