

For Immediate Release

Mingei International Museum's Bright Exhibition, *Fashioning an Icon: Virgin of Guadalupe Imagery in Textile Design*, Centers A Reimagined Cultural Icon**Opens April 5, 2025**

February 4, 2025, SAN DIEGO, CA — She's present in stained glass chapel windows and on the dashboards of lowriders. From tattoos to hand-embroidered textiles, artists have reimagined the muse of *la Virgen de Guadalupe* since the 16th century. [***Fashioning An Icon: Virgin of Guadalupe Imagery in Textile Design***](#), opening at Mingei International Museum on April 5, 2025, celebrates *la Virgen's* representation on clothing and adornment. The group exhibition explores the Virgin of Guadalupe's endurance as an iconic cultural symbol fashioned through creative expression.

Fashioning an Icon includes a collection of over 70 textile works honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe. Celebrated textile artists throughout Mexico contributed special pieces. Among other hand-woven and embroidered textiles, this collection presents *huipiles*—garments deeply rooted in Indigenous cultures of Mexico and Central America—blouses, outfits, and accessories.

This new show draws from the *Rosas y Revelaciones* Project, a group of clothing and accessories commissioned by project founder, Linda Hanna, based in Oaxaca, Mexico. Mingei's reimagined presentation, curated by Ariana Torres, adds a selection of works by artists from San Diego and Tijuana that exemplify how *la Virgen's* image visually inspires the local community.

"*Fashioning an Icon* is both an exquisite tribute to *la Virgen de Guadalupe* and a striking testimony to the virtuosity of Mexican and Indigenous artisans," said Jessica Hanson York, executive director and CEO. "For the Museum, it upholds key momentum set in place by the critical and public success of our recent exhibitions *Piñatas: The High Art of Celebration* and *La Frontera*, with all three shows celebrating traditional and evolving craft forms from our cross-border region."

The Virgin of Guadalupe has been a subject of Catholic devotional practice and a muse of artistic expression in communities across Mexico for over 400 years. Also known as Our Lady of Guadalupe or *la Virgen*, she is an apparition of the Virgin Mary specific to Mexico. Following tales of her origins accompanied by her figure on the iconic *tilma* on display in Mexico City, countless renditions of her image have been depicted in textile form. From blankets and banners to clothing and adornment, the Virgin of Guadalupe's likeness has been an ever-present thread in Mexico's cultural fabric.

This exhibition emphasizes the connection between clothing and cultural identity, inviting visitors to think about the power and endurance of images we encounter, engage with, and even wear, in our daily lives.

Continued on second page

“The Virgin of Guadalupe's representation is rooted in craft and complex history. As a cultural icon, she inspires so many artists to reinterpret her image in different styles, colors, and shapes—each interpretation bringing deeper meaning to her image. This exhibition is important because it explores what craft, clothing, and iconography can tell us about ourselves and our communities.” - Ariana Torres, Curator

Featured Local Artists

[Arianna Ytselle](#), Photographer

[Claudia Rodríguez-Biezunski](#), Fashion Designer, *Sew Loka*

[Diana Benavidez](#), Binational Artist from the San Diego/Tijuana Border Region

Related Programming – More information to come at mingei.org/whats-on

Curator-Led Exhibition Tour

April 10, 2025 from 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Free for Mingei Members, \$10-15 for Non-members

Stitch Together Workshop Series

May 9, June 13, July 18, and August 8 from 5:00pm - 7:00pm

\$15 for Mingei Members, \$20 for Non-members

Woven Jewelry Workshop with Mónica Díaz Martínez

June 26, 2025 from 6:00pm - 8:00pm

\$55 for Mingei Members, \$65 for Non-members

Artist Gallery Talk with Mónica Díaz Martínez (En Español)

June 27, 2025 from 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Free for Mingei Members, \$10-15 for Non-members

[Download Media Images Here](#)

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ABOUT MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

Mingei International Museum, located in San Diego's Balboa Park Cultural District, celebrates human creativity through multicultural works of folk art, craft, and design. Inspired by the Japanese *mingei* (art of the people) movement, Mingei cares deeply about design functionality, handmade craft, and bringing out the creativity that lives in all of us. In addition to rotating gallery exhibitions and event programming, Mingei's gift shop, theater, education center, restaurant, and café are backdrops for finding inspiration and connecting with the community. As the presenter of San Diego Design Week and a partner to over 50 local artists and art and cultural organizations, Mingei puts celebrating creativity at the core of its mission through workshops, film festivals, lectures, and more. Mingei is a nonprofit institution funded by admission, individuals, and institutional support.

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