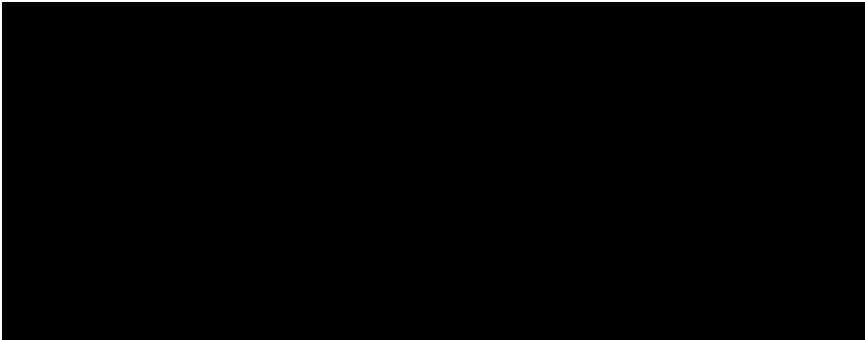


# Mexican Muralism





What is muralism?



## What was the **Mexican Revolution of 1910**?



Dictator Porfirio Diaz



Pancho Villa/ Emiliano Zapata



**Mexico: *Los tres grandes***  
**Rivera, Orozco, Siqueiros**



Diego Rivera



Jose Clemente Orozco



David Alfaro Siqueiros





Rivera was a Marxist, allied with the Soviet Union, supported Trotsky who was exiled in Mexico, but also painted murals commissioned by the Rockefellers in NYC (destroyed) and Ford Motor Company in Detroit.



Rivera, *The History of Mexico*, National Palace, Mexico City, 1929-35  
**buon fresco**: when you apply pigment to a recently plastered wall, you apply the color while the plaster is still wet, the color lasts longer on a buon fresco.



## 1. *The History of Mexico: Aztec History*

Rivera champions Indian identity, their architectural accomplishments (pyramid), their religion (gods and goddesses), their agricultural traditions (corn)





## 2. The History of Mexico: Spanish Conquest to 1930

-Depicts Mexico's hero of independence: Miguel Hidalgo

-Depicts heroes of Mexican Revolution like the farm workers and Zapata



### 3. The History of Mexico: Mexico Today and Tomorrow

-Mexico after the Mexican Revolution, looking towards the future, industrial and Communist future, Indian and rural laborer is still powerful (“huelga” means “strike” in English)



Rivera, *Detroit Industry*, 1932-3



Mural commissioned by Ford Motor Company for Detroit Institute of Arts  
-Painted after the Great Depression in U.S.

Depicts the importance of the auto industry in the U.S. and for the future  
-Depicts the progress of industry from agriculture to machines.





Orozco was involved in the Mexican Revolution, first to get a U.S. commission (at Pomona College, then New School in NYC and Dartmouth College).



Orozco, *A Call for Revolution & Universal Brotherhood*, New School, New York, 1930



Orozco, *Miguel Hidalgo*, Government Palace, Guadalajara, Mexico, 1937  
-Orozco's style is expressionistic, dramatic, dynamic, and chaotic, seen in size, location and iconography of mural.





Siqueiros was involved in the Mexican Revolution and was politically radical, and his art was also graphic, experimental, and creative. Created the Experimental Workshop in NYC.

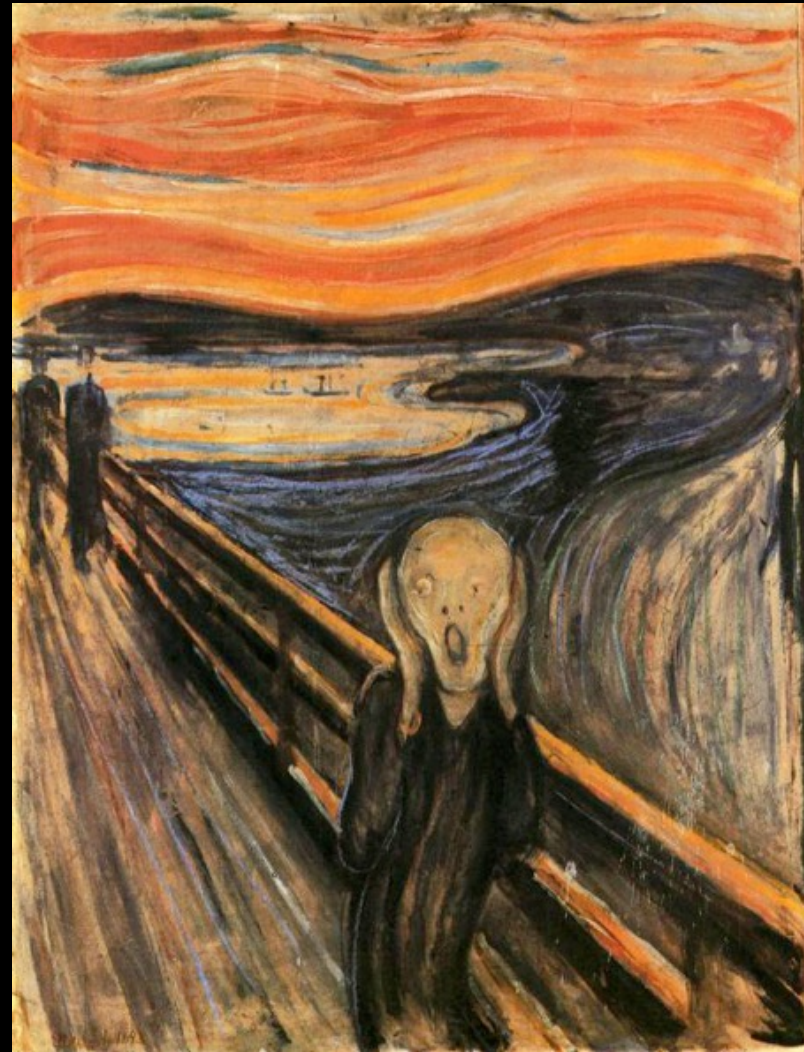


Siqueiros, *Collective Suicide*, 1936, lacquer on wood with applied sections  
-Not a traditional oil on canvas

Siqueiros, *Echo of a Scream*, 1937  
Response to the Spanish Civil War



Munch, *The Scream*, 1893

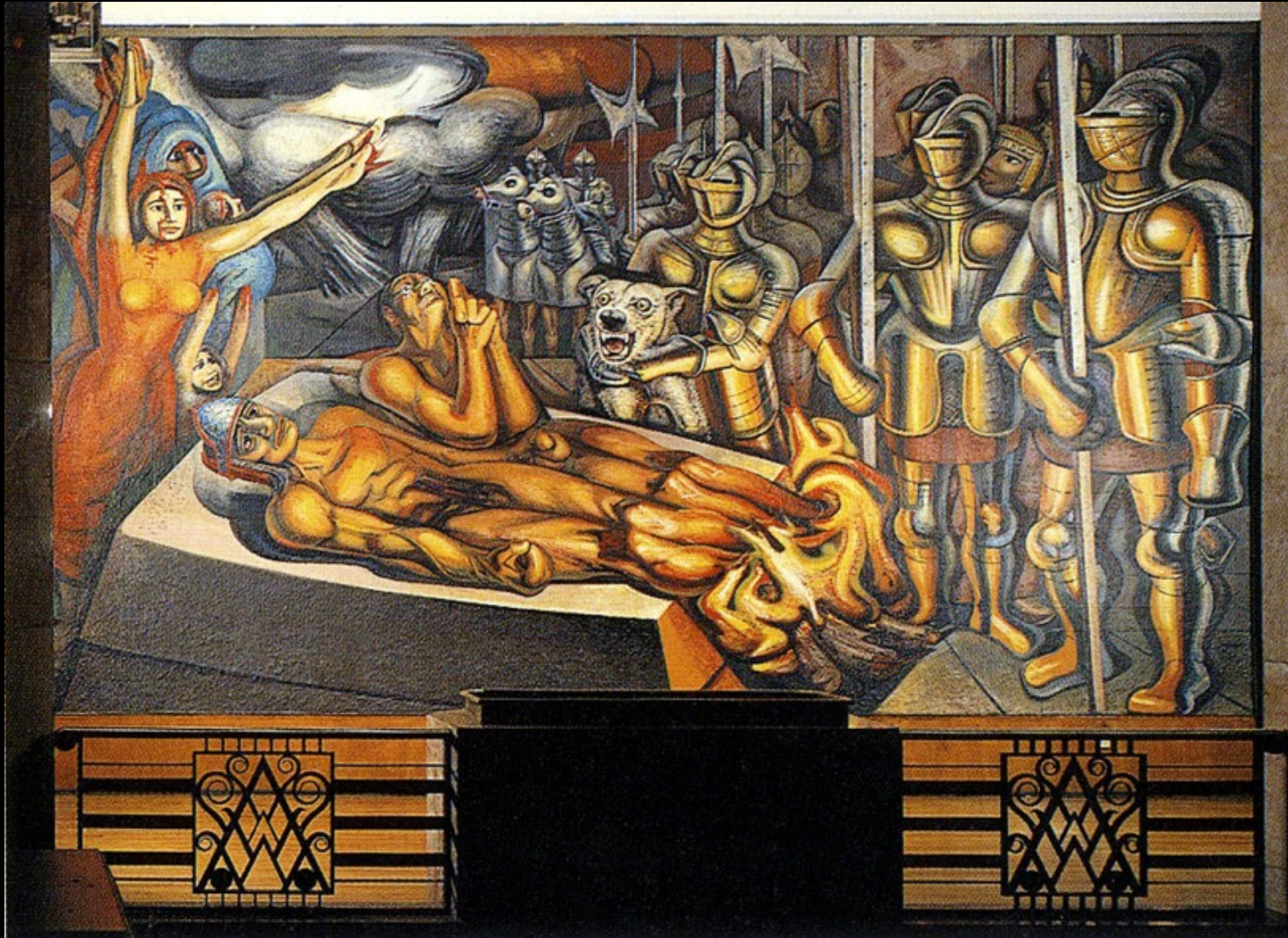




Siqueiros, *Proletarian Mother*, 1929



Siqueiros, *The Torment of Cuauhtemoc*, Palace of Fine Arts, Mexico City, 1950





Rivera, *Agrarian Leader Zapata*, 1931



Siqueiros, *Ethnography*, 1939



**How do these artists depict and memorialize the subject of the farm worker?**