



## **Mexican Artworks Nourish The Metropolitan Museum of Art at the Exhibition *Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art***

\*\*\* It includes almost twenty pieces from our country, such as stelae, stucco glyphs, censer stands, panels, sculptures, carved lids, and codex style vessels.

\*\*\* This is the first exhibition in a decade that The Met dedicates to the aesthetic refinement of the Maya civilization. It will open on November 21, 2022.

Nearly a hundred artworks from the Ancient American Art collections from The Metropolitan Museum of Art, along with exceptional loans from the National Institute of Anthropology and History (INAH), part of the Ministry of Culture of the Government of Mexico, lead the first exhibition in a decade that The Met devotes to the aesthetic refinement of the Maya civilization.

*Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art*, organized by The Met and the Kimbell Art Museum, will open on November 21, 2022, and will remain on display until April 2, 2023. It will travel to Forth Worth afterwards, where it will be exhibited from May 7 to September 3 next year.

INAH takes part in this great exhibition, which analyzes the concepts of regeneration and resilience, embodied in the ancient Maya divinities, depicted in all their stages of life: childhood, adulthood, old age, and even their rebirth.

The exhibition displays little known artworks from The Met, as well as unprecedented pieces for the American public spread throughout Europe and Latin America. 19 of these works come from our country, and are part of the collections of the National Museum of Anthropology (MNA) in Mexico City, the Archaeological Museum of Soconusco and the “Alberto Ruz L’Huillier” Site Museum in Chiapas, as well as the “Carlos Pellicer Cámara” Museum in Tabasco, the Cantón Palace Museum in Yucatan, and the Amparo Museum in Puebla.

Stelae, stucco glyphs, censer stands, panels, anthropomorphic sculptures, carved lids, codex style vessels, and masks, are some of the pieces loaned by Mexico. The Stele of Izapa stands out as specialists of INAH’s National Coordination Conservation of Cultural Heritage, and the National Coordination of Museums and Exhibitions restored it with the support of The Met.



*Lives of the Gods: Divinity in Maya Art* focuses in the mastership of the Classic Maya period (250-900 CE), still visible in the diverse cultural elements unearthed at the ancient cities of the tropical forests of Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

For its comprehension, the exhibition divides in several sections: “Creations”, which approaches to the mythical episodes related with the Origin of the World; “Day” and “Night”, which explores the balance among the main gods; “Rain”, which remarks the power of Chahk, the rain deity, and K’awiil, the abundance deity.

The “Maize” section offers a chronicle on the life, death and rebirth of the god related with this basic crop, is told across a selection of pieces; “Knowledge” narrates the work of the Maya scribes and, finally, “Patron Gods” includes a series of pieces that show how kings and queens adopting many of their attributes.

The recent developments in the Maya hieroglyph studies stand out, as they enabled the identification of the names of artists from that period, which are included in an exhibition catalogue for the first time. Case in point, the Stele 51 from Calakmul depicts the ruler Yuknoom Took’ K’awiil (ca. 731 CE), carved by Sak [...] Yuk [...] and Sak [...] Yib’ah Tzak B’ahlam.

James Doyle, who worked as Assistant Curator at the Ancient American Art galleries at The Met, originally conceived this exhibition. Joanne Pillsbury — Andrall E. Pearson Curator of Ancient American Art— also collaborated in it, along with Laura Filloy Nadal —INAH’s researcher and Associate Curator at The Met—, and Oswaldo Chinchilla Mazariegos —Associate Professor of Anthropology at Yale University—. As for the Kimbell Art Museum, its organization has been in charge of Jennifer Casler Price, Curator of Asian, African, and Ancient American Art.

Further information is available at the museum’s website and social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, by browsing through the hashtag #LivesOfGods.