

Forum on Creativity: Guanajuato, Mexico August 7-14, 2010



The Boston Printmakers will host an educational tour and studio workshop exploring the passion and creativity that has grown from this celebrated region of central Mexico



Emeritus member of the Boston Printmakers and resident of Guanajuato, **Carol Summers** will be your host. As a world traveler and avid collector of regional **Mexican Folk Art**, Carol will provide personal insight on Guanajuato and demonstrate his unique method of printing colorful woodcuts. His **award-winning** bed-and-breakfast inn, **La Casa de Espiritus Alegres**, houses a vast collection of folk art from every state in Mexico.

It's a museum to regional art!

< left: Carol Summers carving in his studio

At the nearby **Piramidal Grafica** print studio, Boston Printmaker member **Karen Kunc** will provide an intensive, exciting mentored workshop inducing a response to the **culture and beauty** of Mexican Folk Art and to our surroundings. Her **3-day, self-directed concentration** on printmaking will awaken the possibilities of the woodcut with contemporary, creative methods that can be **spontaneous**, simple and direct, leading to editionable and monoprint approaches.

Karen Kunc teaching a workshop: right>



Mexican Printmaker **Hugo Anaya**, manager of *La Casa de Espiritus Alegres* and co-owner the Piramidal Grafica studio has planned a **full itinerary** of visits to local arts neighborhoods, meals, studio time, and a **gala reception** for the final evening. **Highlights** include: el Centro Guanajuato, an excursion through the Pottery Trail to San Miguel de Allende, and a visit to the **print studio** in Salamanca.

Forum on Creativity: Guanajuato allows for conversation, personal growth, sharing of ideas and friendships, amid the good food, moderate **mountain climate**, and wonders of Mexican culture and **life**.

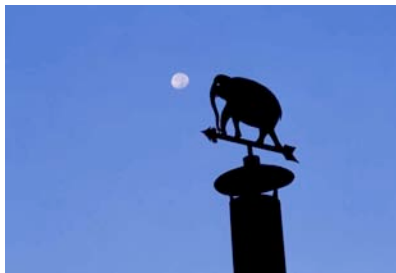


Guanajuato: Mines, Mummies, Margaritas, Tunnels

Facts

Guanajuato, the capital city of the State of the same name, is located in the geographical center of Mexico, in the **central highlands** known as the Bajío. It is 41 miles northeast of León, and just over an hour west of San Miguel de Allende. The **European flavored** city is a classic example of the **Spanish Colonial style**. The city retains its old-world charm, while becoming a bustling hub of government and the home of the University. Perhaps the most **distinctive** feature is its system of **tunnels** laid out

under the city. The river that ran through Guanajuato overflowed one too many times, and in **1906** was rerouted leaving the riverbed behind to be used as the major east-west road system through **town**. Maybe due to the proclivities of local miners, there are **dozens** of tunnels interlacing the city, each one unique in style and fascinating to **behold**. (more information is at: www.casaspirit.com)



The immediate neighborhood is called Marfil

Marfil grew up around a river that provided water needed to process the silver coming out of the prolific mines in the mountains. It is filled with magnificent stone haciendas built over 300 years ago. Ravaged by floods in the early 1900's many have been restored as private homes and museums. Among them a quirky and idiosyncratic bed & breakfast: **La Casa de Espiritus Alegres**.

Marfil is located about 10 minutes by car to the downtown district—**el Centro de Guanajuato**. Buses and cabs are plentiful and inexpensive, so getting to town is a breeze.

Accommodation



La Casa de Espiritus Alegres (owned by Carol Summers and operated by Hugo Anaya) is filled with **skeletons** laughing and playing, it boasts the name **The House of Good Spirits**. The decor is far from morbid—*skellies* dance and cavort, peek around corners and grin from the ceiling.

Named by **Frommer's and Fodor's Travel Guides** *La Casa de Espiritus Alegres* is one of the **best inns in Mexico!**

What is the weather like in Guanajuato? Altitude combined with latitude makes for nearly **perfect springtime weather** all year round. People are often surprised to find out that summers are not hot and humid, but rather lovely and **refreshing**.

ITINERARY GUANAJUATO: August 7-14, 2010



Travelers should arrive at La Casa de Espiritus Alegres by 6pm on Saturday, August 7, 2010

Day 1: Check-in welcome food and margaritas

Day 2: Full day in el Centro Guanajuato, introduction to the Piramidal Grafica studio; PM Tour of La Casa de Espiritus Alegres

Day 3: Full day Pottery Trail excursion to visit several of Guanajuato's internationally renowned ceramicists, final destination San Miguel de Allende

Day 4: demonstrations by Carol Summers and Hugo Anaya, project overview by Karen Kunc, sketching in the local area and el Centro; free evening

Day 5: TBD either a day in nearby Salamanca to city's sites and to a print studio / tour the Valenciana silver mines and see the great sunset panoramas from La Pipila; use the funicular to the elegant sidewalk restaurants bordering the triangular Jardin de la Union in the city's centre.

Day 6: Karen Kunc's intensive, mentored studio workshop (morning-afternoon with time to develop blocks into the evening) (dinner on your own)

Day 7: Full studio day for group project: Prints hanging and celebration; **Gala evening dinner**

Day 8: return to USA (or off to another destination)

\$1350 per person (double occupancy)

The price includes 7days/7 nights accommodation at the B&B, studio instruction and workshop time, meals, fieldtrip transportation and museum entrances.

Not included: international air and airport transportation to B&B and back.

Travel insurance is **recommended**

Valid passport required: A Visa is **NOT** required for travel to Mexico, a valid passport is necessary for border crossing and customs. **See:** http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_970.html

Medical, packing, and other **advice** is available at www.casaspirit.com



Registration and Payment Schedule

Reserved registration period for Boston Printmaker **members** through **March 30**

Registration opens March 30 for **non-members**

Registration **closes** April 30 for members and non-members
(Participating artists are welcome to travel with companions)

< left: Print by **Hugo Anaya**, Piramidal Grafica Studio: www.piramidalgrafica.com

First payment/deposit \$750 with registration materials by **March 30 (members)**; by **April 30 (non members)** (non-refundable after May 15) Additional information forms will be sent to travelers with second payment, including room selection and materials for workshops and other items

Second payment \$600 received by **June 15** (non-refundable after June 15)

Make your travel arrangements and plan to arrive at the B&B in Guanajuato by **6pm on Saturday, August 7, 2010**

Bed and Breakfast: La Casa de Espíritus Alegres www.casaspirit.com/index
La Ex-Hacienda La Trinidad, #1 Colonia Marfil Guanajuato, Guanajuato 36250 Mexico

If you require **additional information** or would like extend your stay please email info@casaspirit.com,
Attn: Hugo Anaya, Innkeeper or call: 011-52-473-733-1013 • Additional costs paid to the innkeeper **directly**

Optional activities can be **privately arranged** (for an additional fee), such as massage, history walking tour, horseback riding, hiking, visits to nearby haciendas and villages....

La Casa de Espíritus Alegres FAQ page: <http://www.casaspirit.com/Englishsite/FAQ.htm>

QUESTIONS? contact Renee Covalucci 978-369-3495 / rcovalucci@yahoo.com



Places aren't the key to understanding Summers's woodcuts — even though they do hint at the underlying theme. Most important are the roads between the places, the stories of the people of the world, the artful solutions to problems of personal expression and the experiences of a lifetime instead of the aggregate product.

-Metro Santa Cruz, 1999

< left: *Los Volcanoes*, woodcut by Carol Summers

v below: *Orb Weaving* and details *Mexican Gothic* (an artists book from the collection of The Boston Printmakers) by Karen Kunc

