

el Quinto Sol



Tenochtitlan

Tlatelolco

Recent

Findings



Tláloc Vessel/ *Vasija Tláloc*, ceramic / *cerámica*, 10-168829



**Mexican Fine Arts
Center Museum**

and

**Chicago Sister Cities
International Program**

cordially

invite

you

to

the opening

reception

for

el Quinto Sol

Tenochtitlan **Tlatelolco** Recent Findings

Friday

January 21,

1994

6 to 8:30pm

1852 W. 19th

Street

Chicago, Illinois

60608

738-1503

Exhibition continues through May 29, 1994

'For as long as the world shall endure, the honor and the glory of México-Tenochtitlan must never be forgotten.'

Chimalpahin Quauhtlehuanitzin

el Quinto Sol: Tenochtitlan and Tlatelolco Recent Findings showcases approximately ninety Aztec artifacts from the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan and her sister-city Tlatelolco. The artifacts that comprise this exhibit include ceremonial, burial and domestic items, and musical instruments from the temples of these ancient cities. The Aztecs founded the city of Tenochtitlan in 1325 A.D. Afterwards a group of them separated from Tenochtitlan and established Tlatelolco which later came under the rule of Tenochtitlan. At the time of Cortez's arrival, Tenochtitlan was the largest city in the Americas and four times larger than any city in Spain. Tlatelolco astonished the Spaniards with its great commerce and the presence of products from all throughout Mesoamerica in its markets. The great metropolis of México City today encompasses both of these Aztec cities. A Sister-Museum agreement between the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum and the Museo del Templo Mayor in México City has allowed for this very exciting exhibition to be displayed in Chicago showcasing these **never** before exhibited artifacts.

Aztec mythology held that the earth had lived through four epochs called "suns".

first era—"four jaguar"

During this era giants roamed the earth but they did not till the soil or sow maize. They lived by eating wild fruits and roots. This era (world) ended when a jaguar devoured the giants. The hieroglyphic sign for the era was a feline head.



second era—"four wind"

This era (world) was destroyed by hurricanes which turned humans into monkeys. The sign for this era was the mask of Quetzalcoatl, lord of the winds.



third era—"four rain"

This era ended in a rain of fire, and its people either died or were transformed into birds. This happened on the day "four rain" therefore the sign of this sun was the mask of Tlaloc, lord of the rain.



fourth era—"four water"

During this time, it rained so much and so frequently that the earth became swamped and its people were transformed into fish. This was the reason that its sign was the head of Chalchiuhtlicue, "jade skirt", deity of lakes, rivers, springs, and seas.





An account of how the sun was created at the beginning of the fifth era (in which according to Aztec philosophy is the one we live in) as recorded by Bernardino de Sahagún.

“It is told that when yet “all” was in darkness, when yet no sun had shone and no dawn had broken, it is said-the gods gathered themselves together and took counsel among themselves there at Teotihuacan. They spoke; they said among themselves : “Come hither, O gods! Who will carry the burden? Who will take upon himself to be the sun, to bring the dawn?”

The fifth or present era, was prophesied to end in earthquakes, and its sign was the hieroglyph Ollin, “movement” (of the earth). It was at the beginning of this era that the actual sun, moon, and human beings as we know them today were created.



Photograph by Pablo Esteva

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