

Librería
Bonilla y Asociados
desde 1950



Título: Art In Latin America

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Precio: \$480.00

Editorial:

Año: 2006

Tema:

Edición: 1^a

Sinopsis

ISBN: 9780300045611

While this series of essays on Latin American art was prepared for an exhibition at London's South Bank Centre, it reads more like an introductory survey than an exhibition catalog. In broad thematic chapters, it sketches historical factors contributing to a regional artistic identity--the heritage of the native peoples, the continued dominance of Europe and the United States, and the resurgence of popular traditions; it also explores in more detail developments in Mexico. The text abounds in fine color and black-and-white illustrations and includes brief artist biographies and translations of 20th-century avant-garde manifestos. Unfortunately, the absence of an index or an exhibition checklist will frustrate more serious readers. Recommended nevertheless.