



Museum Access: Museum of International Folk Art

SEASON 3 - EPISODE 2

The Museum of International Folk Art in Albuquerque, New Mexico features folk art and cultural artifacts from around the world, including textiles, pottery, figurines, clothing and much more. Let's continue the learning with these questions and talking points.

Question 1

How would you define 'Folk Art'?

More Talking Points:

1. What are some examples of folk art that you are familiar with?
2. Do you think pieces of folk art were considered art when they were made? Why or why not?

Question 2

Figurines of people are very popular in the world of folk art. Why do you think figurines are common across so many cultures?

More Talking Points:

1. How do figurines differ between cultures?
2. Do you or your family have figurines in your home? Describe them.

Question 3

Alexander Girard collected thousands of pieces to make his 'sets' or 'dioramas'. If you were creating a diorama, what part of your daily life would you want to share?

More Talking Points:

1. Why do you think Girard chose to showcase everyday activities like going to the market or attending church?
2. Why do you think these themes are so popular with folk artists?

Question 4

What is the role of forced perspective in the Girard dioramas?

More Talking Points:

1. Why do you think forced perspective is popular in folk art?
2. Where else have you seen forced perspective used?

Question 5

Who would you celebrate on the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos)?

More Talking Points:

1. What things would bring for your loved one?
2. Why would you celebrate them with those items?





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Question 6

Why is organized collection storage so important for museums?

More Talking Points:

1. What can researchers learn from the artifacts in their stored collections?
2. What section of the museum's archived collection would you be most interested in exploring? Why?

Question 7

How do museums ensure their artifacts are clean and safe for storage or display?

More Talking Points:

1. Why do artifacts need to be carefully cleaned before display or storage?
2. What can researchers learn about an artifact during its cleaning?

Question 8

Often, artists are influenced by art from other countries. How have folk artists re-interpreted Chinese porcelains?

More Talking Points:

1. What style of art would you want to mimic?
2. How do you think cross culture influences have impacted the art world?

Question 9

Why do you think a lot of folk art has religious themes?

More Talking Points:

1. Does any art in your home have religious elements? Is it folk art?
2. What other themes does folk art from around the world share?

Question 10

What can researchers learn about different cultures by studying their textiles and clothing (like the Alaskan Parka)?

More Talking Points:

1. Do you think modern textiles and clothing may be considered folk art in the future? Why or why not?
2. Do you consider clothing as a form of art? Which designers do you think are timeless?

