

IPIRANGA

A project by Balam Bartolomé

Porfirio Díaz was the president of Mexico for over 30 years. He was overthrown by the Mexican Revolution in 1910 and sent to exile in France. During his dictatorship, in 1904, the Palacio de Bellas Artes (Fine Arts Palace) was built. It is the most emblematic construction regarding Mexico's art and it is used for showing as well scenic, literature and visual arts. Inside the palace we can find several wall paintings from the most emblematic Mexican artists of the first half of the last century like Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiros, José Clemente Orozco and Rufino Tamayo.

The construction itself is a mixture of diverse architectonic styles (more precisely art nouveau and art deco), and is indeed a powerful and clear representation on how Mexico's social, artistic and political structure has evolved since the triumph of the Revolution in 1921.

By placing an iron ship over the Palace -located in the economic epicenter of Mexico City- I am representing the fragility and instability of Mexico's very complex culture, its contradictions and corrupted beauty.

Ipiranga is the name of the ship in which Porfirio Diaz was sent to exile to Paris.