

1.14.2023 - 1.15.2023

Yesterday was Bill Stewart day. William Stewart is a dear friend of mine. He is 85 years old, an abstract expressionist painter, and the person who introduced me to Gabo Mendoza. Bill has lived in Oaxaca for the last seven years (at least). Every trip to Oaxaca must include a trip to see Bill and his dog Rita. Susan, Rich and I looked at many of his paintings and then many, many more of his works of paper, after, we had 'comida' at 2:00. Comida included red mole on chicken, rice, empanadas, and mezcal made by his taxi driver, Lazaro.



After comida, around 5, Lazaro drove us to the village where green glaze is their specialty, Atzompa. Lynn and I were there last year for an art opening in a huge, deserted hacienda. Finally! Back home where we spent the late evening with Gabo. Gabo was very happy to show Susan and Rich his work and they loved it.



We met this morning on the Zocolo again for breakfast and then hit the ground running. Today was museum day but not before another trip to market. There are a few markets here but '20 de noviembre' is closest to us. It is named after the Mexican revolution that began in 1910.



Then we ate again - but not until 2.

There is a place in this market called “pasillo de humo” - literally translated it means ‘smoky passage’. It is a long alley way lined with many meat booths. Each booth has a cooking fire going. You pack yourself onto a crowded bench and tell a young person (child) how many people you are, then you order whatever you want to put on top from one of the many stands (roasted onions, pico de gallo, roasted prickly pear and on and on. When the cooked meat arrives, a woman with a container of hot, homemade tortilla arrives. You pay everyone separately. They each have their own business. Gabo and his son Rodrigo joined us. It is crazy fun.



We then walked to the Textile museum. It is close to the market and has gorgeous grounds that include a nice restaurant, coffee shops and two other galleries that we also visited. All are housed on the site of a 13th century convent that the government converted in Centro Cultural de San Pablo. The grounds are extraordinary. (the famous mexican artist and philanthropist Francisco Toledo designed the gates).



