

1.11.2023

Day 1 was travel, one interesting to get you in the mood.Photo of the pilot.



Day 2 I always forget how things work in Mexico. I can research what I want to do, schedule those things and commit to them. The minute my feet hit the ground, it is all for naught. The second you walk out of the door you belong to Oaxaca. After sitting and talking for a while with Gabo Mendoza, (in our terms, the director, on Oaxacan terms the master - he lives in the compound with everyone else.) I went with he and his assistant to a meeting regarding a mural Gabo was commissioned to paint for a library, We meet two Americans who were on the library board. One was from CA. the other from NYC. The both expatriated to Oaxaca with their partners. There seems to be a healthy gay American community here.

I hope the photos serve to help tell the story, because there are so many details that are practically impossible to describe. After the meeting I hope to exchange some cash.

This afternoon I hope to have an opportunity to exchange dollars.
1 United States Dollar equals 18.94 Mexican Pesos



A word about the ‘facility’. I talked to Gabo quite a bit about my Palmer Lake residency dream. He made sure I knew this is not a ‘residency’ it is a ‘space’ it’s formal name is ‘Espacio Artístico Xicoténcatl’”

Aztec for ‘artist space in the land of the bumblebees’. I understand the reason for not calling it a residency. It prevents them from becoming what most residency’s are..... Formulaic, mostly, not always, elitist. The process of getting into a residency immediately turns the creative process into mush. Of course, he loves the idea of giving international artists who come to Espacio Artístico Xicoténcatl the opportunity to come to Palmer Lake for an intercambio. Currently, there are twelve artists here, two performance artists- one from Mexico City and one from NYC, one Conservator, chef, an architect (still don’t know where they are from) that is all I have met so far. Pictured are Gabo Mendoza Director, Uriel, conservator, Pauline, performance artist)



First images here are of my room, the bathroom, the dirty dish room and the kitchen. We also take showers in the 'bathroom' There is very little, if any, running water, so the big container next to the toilet is for flushing :). I am pretty sure I won't be using the kitchen. I have a hard enough time cooking with newish appliances.



The second set are images of the massive courtyards behind the wall. It is nice, because if you lose your key you walk through the little store to the courtyard and you are back home.



This image is what you see from the street.



Grasshoppers are the local treat. Here they are pictured at the store counter to grab and eat as you go.



Also worms, corn fungus, squash blossoms and prickly pear. Women sit in the market picking off the prickly pear spines (my favorite Oaxacan food). After the morning meeting I sat with coffee and watched a chef and a ceramicist discuss one coffee mug for a good half hour.

The value of the handmade can be seen everywhere you look.



A few extra images.... Dia de Los Muertos is taken very seriously here. Everyone has a shrine. This is the one in the compound.



There are officially 7 types of Oaxacan moles- many, many more family recipes.



Lynn and Garcia, this one is for you. Since you were here they put in a gallery called Piedra Del Coyote. check out the signage.



The REAL reason I come to Oaxaca, Negrita....



Two of the ceiling panels were painted by artists from Denver.



And a few extra shots of the courtyard.



Sweet dreams everyone! Xoxoxo

