

FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ CRUZ

OAXACAN WOODCARVING

OAXACA VALLEY

Location: southern Mexico.

Poor, rural area.



OAXACAN WOODCARVING

Earliest woodcarving done hundreds of years ago by Zapotec Indians.

Carved masks for festivals and toys for children.

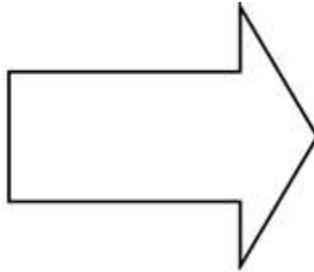


MODERN WOODCARVING

Manuel Jimenez known as the modern pioneer of Oaxacan woodcarving. He is now famous and rich.

Currently over 200 families of carvers.

Helped change poor farmers and laborers into prosperous artists.



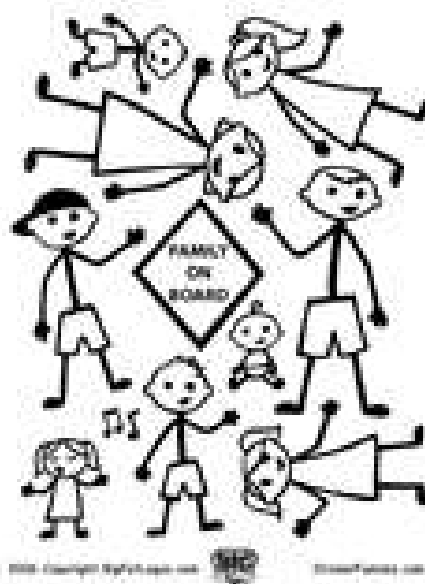
FAMILY BUSINESS

Fathers and sons carve, mothers and daughters paint, young children and elderly sand.

Takes days to carve a piece, using sharp machetes or knives.

Sanding is done by hand as the wood dries.

Painting is done last, and can take a week or more.



COPAL WOOD

From the copal tree.

Wood smells sweet; used to make incense

Gnarled branches – animal shapes often follow the curves of the branches.

Wood is light but strong.

Sands to a finish that is smooth and shiny.



FRANCISCO HERNANDEZ CRUZ

Born in 1961, 20 miles south of Oaxaca

Father was a farmer.

Began woodcarving in 1979, and has been carving ever since.

Cruz, and other artists who do this type of woodcarving make devils, angels, dragons, monsters, animals, as well as human images from the wood.

Use bright paints to decorate the wood.

Cruz's most famous pieces are displayed at EuroDisney in Paris, France.



Fantastic animals!



ART PROJECT

We will paint our own ceramic cats using bright acrylic paint!

