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FAIR | FEBRUARY 9, 2024 | PAUL LASTER



10 Highlights from Zona Maco in Mexico City



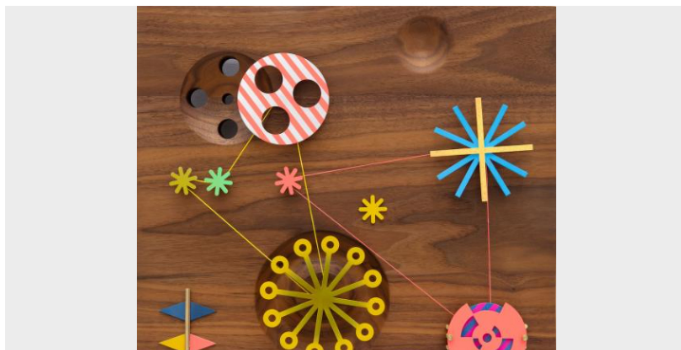
COURTESY GALERIE NORDENHAKE, STOCKHOLM, BERLIN, AND MEXICO CITY

Naufus Ramírez-Figueroa, *Study of the Cacaxtla Murals #3*, 2024 Acrylic on carved wooden panel, 180.5 x 180 cm / 71 x 70 7/8 in.

On February 7, Zona Maco returned to the Centro Citibanamex, Mexico City's massive convention center, to celebrate its 20th edition. The fair, which runs through February 11, 2024 features 140 exhibitors in the art section—ranging from international mega-galleries like [Pace](#), [Galeria Continua](#), [GRIMM](#) and [Galerie Nordenhake](#) to [Mexico City's](#) popular kurimanzutto, [Maia Contemporary](#), [OMR](#) and [PROYECTOS MONCLOVA](#) in the Main section. The [Emerging](#) sector showcases galleries including [193 Gallery](#), [N.A.S.A.L.](#), and [Red Arrow](#), while there are many more exhibitors in sections devoted to photography, design, books, and antiques.

"I'm very happy with the fair this year," [Zelika Garcia](#), the founder of Zona Maco, shared with *Art & Object* when we caught her with collectors in the VIP lounge. "It's great to see so many people back at the fair after a few years. The thing that excites me most this year is the Forma section, which places sculptures and installations throughout the fair. We have never had anything like it, except in the first year, when we launched, and needed to fill the space. This time, we commissioned artists to create [site-specific](#) works, with most of them being sculptural interventions and others as performance art."

Art & Object has selected 10 works by artists, who we think are worth following and collecting, from the various sectors. Please scroll through to see our choices of the best artworks at this year's fair.



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6. Edgar Orlaineta, *Dynamo*, 2023

Fascinated by contemporary design while questioning its **symbolic** and economic value, Mexican sculptor Edgar Orlaineta puts the elements of graphic and industrial design to new use in his playful yet sophisticated works of art. For his colorful kinetic piece, *Dynamo*, the artist was inspired by Charles **Eames'** *Solar Do-Nothing Toy*, a 1958 project commissioned by Alcoa for its Design Forecast program and advertising campaign. Eames designed a toy that had no specific use, which is how it got its name. Researching Eames's project, Orlaineta used recycled aluminum, tin and wood to create his own version of a battery-operated do-nothing toy with DIY techniques. In the end, the piece looks smart but has no function, other than to be a whimsical work of art.

Image: Edgar Orlaineta, *Dynamo*, 2023. Wood, wax, aluminum, brass, acrylic painting, motors, battery, rubber monofilament, 9v battery, 18.5 x 18.23 x 2.17 in / 47 x 46.3 x 5.5 cm. Courtesy PROYECTOS MONCLOVA, Mexico City

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

[Read more stories from Paul Laster](#)

Paul Laster is a writer, editor, curator, advisor, artist, and lecturer. New York Desk Editor for *ArtAsiaPacific*, Laster is also a Contributing Editor at *Raw Vision* and *Whitehot Magazine of Contemporary Art* and a contributing writer for *Art & Object*, *Ocula*, *Galerie*, *Artsy*, *Sculpture*, *Time Out New York*, *Conceptual Fine Arts*, and *Two Coats of Paint*. Formerly the Founding Editor of *Artkrush*, he began *The Daily Beast's* art section and was Art Editor at *Russell Simmons' OneWorld Magazine*. Laster has also been the Curatorial Advisor for Intersect Art & Design and an Adjunct Curator at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, now MoMA PS1.

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