

Ricardo José Haddad Musi: Mexican Alebrijes Capture Global Interest

SAN ANTONIO, TX, UNITED STATES, January 24, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The growing global demand for Mexican handicrafts, particularly [alebrijes](#), has caught the attention of industry leaders. [Ricardo José Haddad Musi](#), a noted Mexican businessman, recognizes how these intricate figures, originating in Oaxaca and Mexico City, are celebrated for their artistry and their positive impact on local economies.

Alebrijes are distinctive handicrafts that combine elements of real and imaginary animals. They are traditionally carved from copal wood and painted in vivid colors.

Their origin story traces back to [Pedro Linares](#), who, during an illness, dreamed of fantastical creatures that inspired the creation of these figures. Haddad Musi explains that Linares' imaginative legacy has played a pivotal role in bringing Mexican folk art to an international stage.

In Oaxaca, artisans have honed their skills in crafting alebrijes, using copal wood prized for its soft texture, which is ideal for carving. Communities such as San Pedro Taviche and San Martin Tilcajete are now renowned for producing these pieces, which have become essential sources of income for the region. Haddad Musi stresses the importance of preserving this tradition, as it not only holds cultural value but also provides employment and attracts tourism to these rural areas.

Creating an alebrije involves multiple stages, from preparing the wood to meticulously painting each detail. Artisans use vibrant colors, some sourced from natural pigments like grana cochineal and indigo, adding unique value that captivates collectors worldwide. Haddad Musi notes that interest in unique handcrafted pieces like alebrijes has grown consistently.

Data indicates that the alebrijes market generates approximately 50 million pesos annually, with a steady increase in exports to the United States and Europe. Haddad Musi emphasizes that this artisanal trade helps preserve cultural heritage while stimulating economic growth in artisan communities, enhancing the quality of life for many involved.

Events like the Night of the Alebrijes, organized yearly by Mexico City's Museum of Popular Art since 2007, further amplify international awareness. This celebration, featuring monumental alebrije sculptures, draws tourists from across the globe, fostering appreciation for this unique

tradition. According to Haddad Musi, such cultural initiatives are vital in showcasing Mexico's rich artistic heritage.

Interest from collectors and folk-art enthusiasts continues to support this craft, benefiting both artisans and their communities. Haddad Musi concludes that the future for alebrijes is bright as long as artisans balance innovation with respect for the traditional techniques that have made these creations admired worldwide.

Marcela Aguilar

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