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Puerto Vallarta: A Walk of Art

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Puerto Vallarta Dancers by Jim Demetro
Beverly Mann

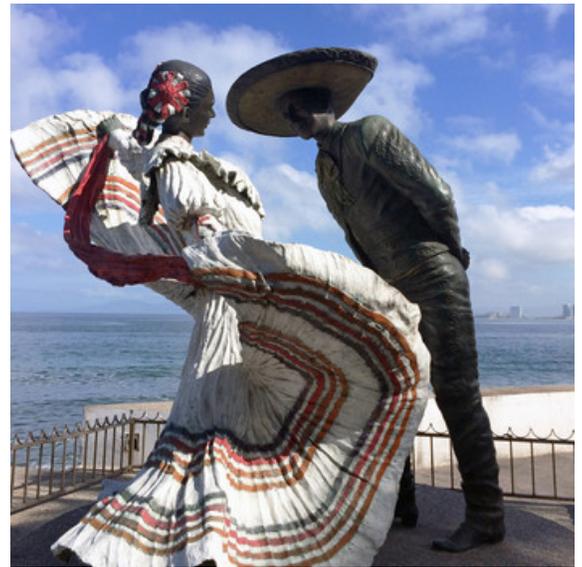
More than a tourist attraction lined with stretches of modern hotels and palm trees, **Puerto Vallarta** is a showcase of world class art: from paintings, pottery, jewelry, hand-blown glasswork to larger-than-life sculptures lining the boardwalk or Malecon.

Just downtown alone, there are 30-plus art galleries. Now in its 20th season, tourists can experience in the city's Centro Historico an **Art Walk** while enjoying a bit of the city's history, from October through May on Wednesday evenings from 6 to 10 p.m. Some 10 participating galleries open their doors after hours offering some light refreshments to visitors strolling at their own pace through each gallery.

However, it is the outside stroll along the scenic ocean's edge, where one encounters such

massive sculptures as the **Millennia**, a memorial to the beginning of the millennium from evolution of life, with figures emerging from the sea and rising towards the heavens, with female figures reaching for the dove of peace.

The impressive nine-foot **Seahorse**, installed in 1976 by artist Rafael Zamarripa Castuneda, and the **Puerto Vallarta Dancers**, by international famous sculptor Jim Demetro, are true eye catchers. The Dancers look as if they are in motion with the giant swirl of a skirt and lean of her partner, with his hands clasped behind his back. The sculpture was inspired by the regional costumes of Xiutla Municipal Folkloric Ballet, a youth organization. **The Rotunda on the Sea** creates an environment unto itself in a large circle of seven immense sculptures by artist Alejandro Colunga. Originally there were 16 pieces before Hurricane Kenna hit in 2002.



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Also inlaid in the ground are small pebbles which represent symbols of the Huichol Indian tribes, descendants of the Aztecs with pre-Columbian traditions and beliefs revolving around Shaman or medicine men. There are numerous images of peyote, a sacred cactus, which the Shamans ate to communicate with the gods as they entered the doorway of the spirit world.

Some of the participating galleries in the Art Walk include:

- **Colectika Ancestral Contemporary Art Gallery-** The gallery showcases a contemporary approach to the simple, primitive carvings and paintings of the past.
- **Galeria Pacifico-** Owner Gary Thompson has collected a diverse blend of contemporary works of mostly Mexican artists. The Gallery was touted by Frommer's Guide as "one of the best galleries in [Mexico](#)."
- **Galeria de Ollas-** Founded in 1998, the gallery is exclusively dedicated to the exhibit and sale of the handcrafted pottery from the village of Mata Ortiz, home of some 400 talented potters in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Each piece of pottery goes through the entire creation process, from mining, treating, molding, and decorating the pots.
- **Galeria Corsica-** Formerly house of noted local artist Jesus Tellos, features a contemporary array of sculpture and paintings by international artists selected by curator Jean Pierre Renucci.

· **Peyote People**-This eclectic shop features more authentic works from an exhibit of Huichol yarn paintings to bead art from San Andres Cohamiata.

For further information, contact: , 1-866 539 5073 Email: info@visitpuertovallarta.com

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