

# Leonora Carrington

## *Rey del Tequila - 2022*

The Plaza Coral Gables – South Plaza



April 2023



Leonora Carrington – “ Rey del Tequila”  
The Plaza Coral Gables – South Plaza

Mary Leonora Carrington OBE (6 April 1917 – 25 May 2011) was a British-born surrealist painter and novelist. She lived most of her adult life in Mexico City and was one of the last surviving participants in the surrealist movement of the 1930s.

When Carrington first came to Mexico she was preceded by the success of surrealist exhibitions which allowed her to create many connections within the surrealist movement. Her connections within these surrealist circles were influential in opening artistic doors that had long been closed to Mexican artists. After living in Mexico for seven years, Leonora Carrington held her first solo exhibition at the Galería Clardecor.

Carrington is credited with feminizing surrealism. Her paintings, sculptures, and writing brought a woman's perspective to what had otherwise been a largely male-dominated artistic movement. Carrington demonstrated that women should be seen as artists in their own right and not to be used as muses by male artists.

## Description of the Artwork

### Leonora Carrington

#### *“Rey del Tequila”*

For Leonora Carrington it was always very special that tequila was on every Mexican’s palate because it somehow represented the Mexican roots. It was so special to her that she considered it as a king, the highest hierarchy that could exist, which is why she always had the restlessness to create a sculpture that could represent the tequila. The name "King of Tequila" was always on her mind, so she dedicated herself to work on the modeling of a sculpture that was to be majestic in order to represent what for her was the “the great tequila”.

An admirer of the agave plant and the drink derived from it, Carrington created the “El Rey del Tequila” Collection, reflecting her profound influence on surrealism and imaginative talent, referring to nature, its richness and the representation of a zoomorphic being, which appears thanks to alchemy and the transmutation of the fascinating magic of the heart of the agave.





## **Description of the Artwork (cont'd.)**

The cast-bronze sculpture is 128” tall and sits on the for legs on top of pavers (with concrete slab base under the pavers).

Situated in the west area of the south facing West (and East) near the Café and the main water feature, the piece is visible from the south area of the open to the public Plaza and also serves as another welcome sign seen from Ponce de Leon Blvd. It is situated within the Plaza Coral Gables Property (that is open/accessible to the Public).





## Location of the Artwork (continued)

### The Plaza Coral Gables Art Features:

Overall Plan of the public spaces/plaza with all 4 proposed Art-in-public spaces featured proposed (and already approved) pieces.

1- “Mean Average” sculpture by Tony Cragg – already approved and procured

2- “Ritual bench + ring” by Michele Oka Doner – already approved and in fabrication.

3- “Coral Fountains” by Jean-Michel Othoniel – already approved and in fabrication/construction

4- “KAWS” monumental sculpture – current proposal/presentation

A- “Rey del Tequila” by Leonora Carrington



## A statement of how the proposed Artwork addresses broader City urban goals

Located on the west side of the South Plaza area, main lawn, the art piece will serve as a welcome feature to one of the busiest areas of the 1-acre public plaza/garden that is in the middle of The Plaza Coral Gables Project. This area will feature ample recreational and entertainment opportunities for the public with a heavy focus on families (children, teenagers and adults) with spaces like the main lawn, a stage area for “street performer” type of activities, a splash pad near the dancing fountains that encourages children to play in the water streams, misters, etc. during the hot Florida summer days, a café/bar by the lawn, and plenty of shade and outdoor seating and dining locations.

The art piece from one of the top contemporary artists recognized worldwide, in conjunction with the art in public spaces features on-site will contribute to put the area and Coral Gables in the cultural and art world map.

With the developments’ specific goal of providing local families an outdoor space to entertain and spend time together, the “Rey del Tequila” art sculpture with its modern, friendly nature will welcome the residents and visitors with a clear signal that these gardens together with the public plaza, is a contemporary, first-class cosmopolitan place while being approachable, inclusive and fun.

This piece of art is scheduled to be installed on a temporary basis (long/mid term) as it belongs to the Beckmann Family Foundation. Unlike the other 4 major art pieces throughout the Plaza, it is not part of the Coral Gables Art In Public Spaces program.

## Exhibitions by Leonora Carrington

2020: Fantastic Women, Louisiana Museum of Modern art, Humlebæk, Denmark, 25 July - 8 November 2020

2019: Surrealism in Mexico - - Exhibitions - Di Donna Galleries, New York, NY, 25 April – 29 June 2019

2018: The Leonora Carrington Museum opens in San Luis Potosí, México

2017: Mad About Surrealism, Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Netherlands, Rotterdam

2017: Surrealist Women, Mayoral, Barcelona, Spain, Barcelona

2016: Surreal Encounters. Collecting the Marvellous, Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, UK, Edinburgh

2016: Dalí, Ernst, Miró, Magritte ... : Surreal Encounters from the Collections Edward James, Roland Penrose

2016: Artists and Lovers, Ordovas Gallery, London, UK, Mayfair

2016: Strange Worlds: The Vision of Angela Carter, Royal West of England Academy, UK, Bristol

2016: Leonora Carrington: The Last Tuesday Society & Viktor Wynd's Museum of Curiosities, Fine Art & Natural History. Hackney, London, September – December 2016

2015: Leonora Carrington: Tate Liverpool, 6 March – 31 May 2015

2015: Surrealism and Magic, Boca Raton Museum of Art, USA, Boca Raton

2015: Kahlo, Rivera & Mexican Modern Art, NSU Art Museum, Fort Lauderdale, USA, Ft. Lauderdale

2015: Lorna Otero Project Album of Family, Miami, The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum, Florida International University, USA, Downtown Miami

2013: Max Ernst, Foundation Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland, Basel

2013–2014: Leonora Carrington: The Celtic Surrealist, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, Ireland

2012: In Wonderland: The Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States, Los Angeles

2011: The Colour of My Dreams The Surrealist Revolution in Art, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada, Vancouver

2010: Surreal Friends, Pallant House Gallery, UK, Chichester, and Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts, UK, Norwich

2008: Arte Americas The Latin American Art Fair, Tresart, USA, Coral Gables

2008: Works from the Natasha and Jacques Gelman Collection of Modern Mexican Art, Irish Museum of Modern Art, Ireland, Dublin[

2003: Frida Kahlo, Diego Rivera and 20th Century Mexican Art: The Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection, National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, IL

2001–2002: Surrealism: Desire Unbound, The Tate, London, England and The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY

1999: Mirror Images: Women, Surrealism and Self-Representation, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA

1991: The Mexican Museum, San Francisco, CA

1990: Brewster Gallery, New York, NY

1989: Museo Nacional de la Estampa, INBA, Mexico

1987: Brewster Gallery, New York, NY (solo)

1987: Art Space Mirage, Tokyo, Japan (solo)

1976: Leonora Carrington : a retrospective exhibition, Center for Inter-American Relations, New York City

1970: Impressionism to Surrealism, Worthing Art Gallery, Worthing, England

1969: The Surrealists, Byron Gallery, New York, NY

1969: Galerie Pierre, Paris, France

1968: Artistas Británicos en México 1800/1968, Instituto Anglo-Mexicano de Cultura, Mexico

1967: IX Bienal de Pintura, São Paulo, Brazil

1966: Surrealism: A State of Mind, Universidad de California, Santa Barbara, CA

1963: Pinturas de la colección de Edward James, Worthing Art Gallery, Worthing, England

1961: El Retrato Mexicano Contemporáneo, Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City, Mexico

1959: Eros Galerie, Daniel Cordier, Paris, France

1956: Galería de Arte Mexicano, Mexico City, Mexico (solo)[66]

1943: Exhibition by 31 Women, the Art of This Century gallery, New York, NY

1943: 20th Century Portraits, Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY

1942: Pierre Matisse Gallery, New York, NY

1938: Esposition du Surréalisme, Galerie Robert, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

1938: Exposition Internationale du Surréalisme, Galerie Beaux-Arts, Paris, Fran