

VISUAL EXERCISE

1. Description and Purpose

The third assignment of this course is a visual exercise with several manuscript and printed materials in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, the location for Lecture/Seminar #8. David Fernández—a rare book librarian at the Thomas Fisher—will guide you through a series of Mexica codices, devotional texts, travel narratives, broadsheets, newspapers, and other printed and manuscript works in the Seminar Room, which means you need to listen attentively and take appropriate notes (**attendance will be taken**). After his presentation you will have the opportunity to carefully handle, inspect, and leaf through some of these valuable treasures. Your specific task, however, is to analyze a series of lotería cards painted by the New York-based Mexican artist Patricia Espinosa that are accompanied by a series of riddles penned by the Mexican-Canadian Martha Bátiz. Describe the collection for your reader and then explain—by concentrating on a few examples—what these images teach us about Mexican popular culture. The purpose of this assignment is to learn about the various materials available to historians studying popular culture and the importance of visual sources for interpreting the past.

2. Important Details

Due Date and Time: To be determined

Medium: WORD DOCUMENT on Blackboard

Length: XX pages (double-spaced, 12-font, Times New Roman)

Sources:

- The lotería cards will be made available for consultation in the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library both during seminar and after. But you can also view them at Patricia Espinosa's website: <http://www.patriciaespinosa.com/blog/loteria-hecho-en-mexico/>.