

Los Angeles County Museum of Art

5905 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, California
90036

Andrea L. Rich
President and Director

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March 7, 2000

Stuart and Scott Gentling
4801 Harley Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76107

Dear Stuart and Scott,

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art is planning to present the exhibition *The Road to Aztlan: Art from a Mythic Homeland*. Opening on March 11, 2001, at LACMA, the exhibition is scheduled to travel to the Austin Museum of Art and the Albuquerque Museum. The exhibition, co-curated by Virginia Fields, curator of pre-Columbian art at LACMA and Victor Zamudio Taylor, independent curator and advisor to the Televisa Cultural Foundation, investigates the art derived from and created about the legendary area that encompasses the American Southwest and portions of Mexico over the course of two millennia. Supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the U.S.-Mexico Fund for Culture, *The Road to Aztlan* will be the first comprehensive exhibition to investigate the nature of the relationship between the two regions, from long before they were separated by an international border to the present day.

The exhibition is divided into three chronological sections linked by common themes. The pre-Columbian section will illustrate the complex themes of cultural interaction that lay the groundwork for the legendary character associated with the American Southwest in colonial and contemporary periods. Aztlan is the historical and mythical place of origin of the Mexica people. This rumored utopia inspired Spanish expeditions to the Southwest in the sixteenth century, and more recently, Aztlan became associated with the historical geography of the Chicano movement. The continuity of themes throughout the three sections of the exhibition will illustrate the visual dialogue expressed by intersecting communities of indigenous, mestizo, and European populations.

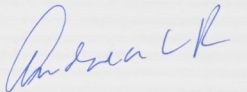
We would like to request that you lend from your collection a certain key object of great cultural significance for *The Road to Aztlan*, that is your model of the Templo Mayor of Tenochtitlan. LACMA will extend the highest levels of professional care and handling for your loan. We will assume full responsibility for costs associated with the packing, shipping, and insuring of your piece, being attentive to any special instructions that you might have. We will provide insurance on a wall-to-wall basis with standard fine arts coverage. The loan would be shipped to LACMA in February 2001, and there will be thorough conservation inspections before and after each venue. Please complete

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the enclosed loan agreements and return both copies to the attention of Virginia Fields. A signed copy will be returned for your records.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea L. Rich", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrea L. Rich
President and Director