

Oaxacan Woodcarvers Fashion a Whimsical World from Wood



Artzy Shares Photos from His Travels...



Meet Artzy, a fun-loving, globetrotting zebra who earned his stripes learning about folk art and meeting artists around the world.

Artzy was brought to life by a talented woodcarver named Zeny Fuentes.





**Zeny lives in the village of
San Martín Tilcajete, in
Oaxaca, Mexico.**

Artzy is part of a very special zoo—Zeny's Zoo, which is full of many colorful animals that Zeny has created.





Zeny's father, Epifanio Fuentes, taught his son how to carve the fantastic animals for which Oaxaca is famous. Zeny's dad is one of the best-known carvers in the region.



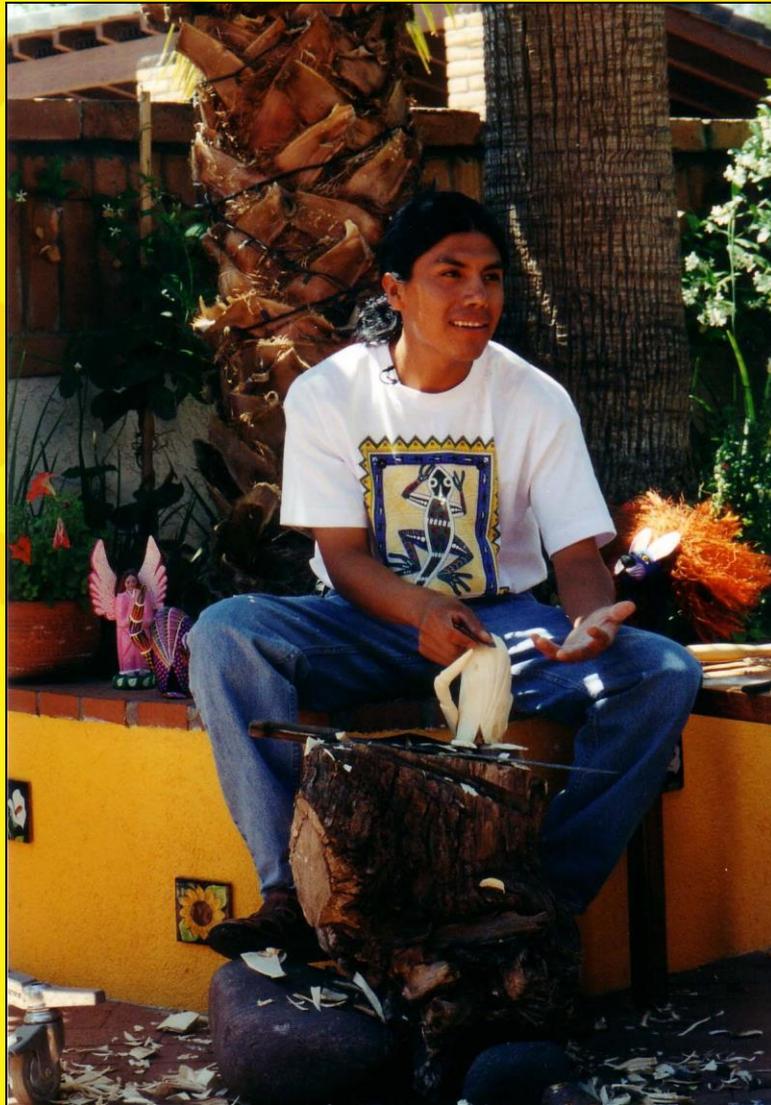
The carvers use the wood of the copal tree because it is easy to carve and does not split when it dries.



To begin a figure, the carvers use a machete to remove the bark and make the basic form of the animal. Details are added later with a smaller knife. Artzy never tires of watching!



When the carvings are complete, they are painted with a base coat. Finally, a detailed pattern is added using many different colors and shapes.



Zeny is following in his father's footsteps to make beautiful woodcarvings in the tradition of his village. And so his zoo grows a little larger every day!

Artzy's World



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