



EAC Program

Children of the Plumed Serpent

The Legacy of Quetzacoatl In Ancient Mexico

LACMA 5905 Wilshire Blvd. • Resnick Pavilion

April 7, 2012 • 10 am

with Dr. Victoria Lyall



Once again, EAC members are invited to a private viewing of the just opened exhibition co-curated by our late Dr. Virginia Fields, Dr. Victoria Lyall and consulting curator, Dr. John Pohl. Program 8 is an EAC funded show and explores the ancient kingdoms of southern Mexico and their patron deity, Quetzalcoatl, the

human incarnation of the Plumed Serpent. This groundbreaking exhibition features more than two hundred objects—including painted codices, turquoise mosaics, gold, and textiles—from Mexico, Europe, and the United States. These rare artworks trace the development of an extensive trade network that fostered a period of cultural innovation that spread across ancient Mexico, the American Southwest, and Central America during the Postclassic (AD 900-1521) and early colonial periods.

"This exhibition foregrounds an era of cultural innovation in Mesoamerica when trade networks, closely linked to the deity Quetzalcoatl, facilitated the exchange of both goods and ideas across vast distances," said Victoria Lyall, LACMA associate curator of Latin American art, "Southern Mexican kingdoms recognized Quetzalcoatl as their founder and patron, and these communities became, and continue to be, the Children of the Plumed Serpent."

This exhibition traces the historical trajectory of Quetzalcoatl's life and explores his role as founder and benefactor of the Nahua-, Mixtec-, and Zapotec-dominated kingdoms of southern Mexico. Legendary accounts demonstrate the sophistication and complexity of Postclassic-period societies in Mexico. For three hundred years the Children of the Plumed Serpent remained the dominant cultural, political, and economic force throughout southern Mexico, until a rival emerged in the Basin of Mexico, the Aztec Empire of the Triple Alliance. These kingdoms, however, successfully resisted Aztec and later Spanish control.

RSVP by NOON April 5th via email (feelie@ucla.edu) or call (310) 454-7851. Limited to 45 persons who reserve early enough to secure a place!