



International Summer Research or Residency Award

Christie Tirado, 2024
Summer Residency in Mexico
Art

This past summer, I had the privilege of embarking on a transformative research residency in Mexico, traveling between Guanajuato and Veracruz from June 23 to July 31, 2024. My journey began in La Cañada de los Tirados, near Tarimoro, Guanajuato, where I delved into the personal narratives of transnational migration. For a week, I interviewed family members and local community members, collecting stories that reflect the complex realities of migration, labor, identity, and the impact of these movements on both those who leave and those who remain. This initial phase of the residency allowed me to reconnect with my ancestral roots while deepening my understanding of how migration has shaped my own familial history.

Following my time in Guanajuato, I transitioned to Coatepec, Veracruz, where I spent a month at La Ceiba Gráfica, a renowned printmaking studio nestled within a restored 16th-century hacienda. During this residency, I had the opportunity to immerse myself in four distinct printmaking courses: Lithography, Moku-Hanga, Letterpress, and Etching. These workshops not only expanded my technical knowledge but also provided a deeper understanding of the rich tradition of printmaking in Mexico, particularly its cultural and political significance during pivotal moments like the Mexican Revolution. The experience of learning in a space that has made printmaking accessible to a broader public was both inspiring and invigorating.



At La Ceiba, I produced over 40 prints, four of which are currently being exhibited at the Memorial Union's main gallery. The residency allowed me to connect with printmakers from around the world, and we are already planning future collaborations and exhibitions in Latin America. This experience reignited my passion for lithography and letterpress, and I have begun incorporating these techniques into my studio practice.

Ultimately, this residency was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that profoundly impacted my artistic journey. The research and skills gained will continue to inform my exploration of migration, identity, and cultural (in)visibility, with future exhibitions and collaborations already on the horizon.

