

"When art is true, it is one with nature. This is the secret of primitive art and also of the art of the masters—Michelangelo, Cézanne, Seurat, and Renoir. The secret of my best work is that it is Mexican.."

"Every good composition is above all a work of abstraction. All good painters know this. But the painter cannot dispense with subjects altogether without his work suffering impoverishment."

At times, his outspoken, uncompromising leftist politics collided with the wishes of wealthy patrons and aroused significant controversy that emanated inside and outside the art world.

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma02/rodriguez/rivera/communist.html>

<http://www.theartstory.org/artist-rivera-diego.htm>

He described California as "a transition stage between the industrial east and primitive, backward Mexico."

"As an artist I have always tried to be faithful to my vision of life, and I have frequently been in conflict with those who wanted me to paint not what I saw but what they wished me to see."

— **Diego Rivera, My Art, My Life**

"I knew how one climbing the mountain of worldly success can slip down into the river below without being conscious of the descent till he is already drowning."

— **Diego Rivera, My Art, My Life**

<http://xroads.virginia.edu/~ma02/rodriguez/rivera/home.html>

Rivera saw the US as a transition stage, but although his commentary was truthful, his ultimate impact was far more universal than local.

Basically – once in the presence of a universal culture, you cant counter it.

Calder argues that regionalism is important. Critical regionalism bypasses specific cultures by generalizing.

Critical regionalism is a contradiction – it depends on modernism and oversimplifies regionalism.

I get critical regionalism.

You need to hear both sides as *different*. Rivera combines them all and paints them each as bad on their own. His communist idea unites global and local culture into one.

Rivera's work is so often seen as

Introduce Diego Rivera and the common view/importance of his work

Connect this to and define critical regionalism

Originally, it would seem as if Rivera is critical regionalist, but really he doesn't want to mediate these two sides, he wants to erase them both for something new.

Introduce Eggener's point about critical regionalist work being a contradiction

Critical Regionalist works can flatten cultures, supported by both Eggener and Calder

Calder's Post-prairie world.

Rivera paints a Post-Prairie world in Allegory, which is unrealistic. + suggests that tradition and progress can't exist together.

Communist Background

Rivera's work as a contradiction, depended on modernism.

Mexican Elements

American Elements

- if it was just these together, maybe it could be called critical regionalism -

New universal style of the work – chaotic.

Communist Dream

Conclusion