

Natasha Miller
Re-Purposed Treasures

Artist Statement

Mexico has a rich and lively culture filled with stories coming from every corner. It has become a destination place with its beautiful cathedrals and cities surrounded by mountains and rainforests, as well as cultural beauty that contributes to its appeal.



The objects I received were seven Mexican pesos. When first looking at the money, they seemed like ordinary coins. However, after looking closely, the complex images on this coin reflect a vibrant and interesting culture. Using one of the world's most beautiful churches, the Zacatecas Cathedral, I created a large image of the Cathedral with different layers of coins, and metal to show how their culture is represented in even the smallest items. In addition, images of Mexico's national flower, the humble dahlia, were added to adorn the piece.

Joshi Hawlader
Re-Purposed Treasures

The Story

While cleaning out old drawers
I fell upon these coins.
Seven Golden Coins.
They looked familiar yet unknown.
Looking closer, I read the word Mexico and peso.
I immediately knew they were currency of Mexico.
These were the left over coins from a previous trip.
What struck my eye was the beauty of each coin.

Each \$10 coin looked like a work of art.

It captured the rich and vibrant culture of Mexico.

Each coin wanted to tell me something about Mexico.

Mexico is nearly three times as large as Texas and more than twice as large as Venezuela.

The national sport in Mexico is soccer. Many Mexican children begin playing football as soon as they can walk.

More languages are spoken in Mexico than in Europe. That's because that country is home to 60 Indian nations.

The most renowned Mexican painter after Frida Kahlo was Diego Rivera. Diego Rivera was Frida Kahlo's husband.

Mexico is a study in contrasts. Bustling modern places with all the latest amenities are surrounded by mountains and rainforest.

The Zacatecas Cathedral is considered one of the world's most beautiful churches.

Salma Hayek is a Mexican motion-picture actress who became a symbol of breakthrough of Latin American performers in U.S. films. She was born in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz, Mexico.

There was something magical about these coins.

They had special powers.

Each taking your hand and giving you glimpses and creating windows

For you to view this magical tourist destination.

A country called Mexico.

Fiesta!