

In the Canadian mosaic, one bright component is the community from Latin America and the Caribbean. These people make a highly varied contribution to our national identity. Here is a sampling of some who have distinguished themselves in the arts.

Artists of

New dimensions to Canada's

photos: DEAIT

Jorge Peral



Have you noticed the new Canadian ten-dollar bill? It was designed by Mexican-born Jorge Peral. After immigrating to Canada in 1995, Jorge was soon appointed Art Director at the Canadian Bank Note Company. Among his outstanding work since then: the engraving of Canada's eight-dollar Grizzly Bear postage stamp and the one-dollar Loon stamp, and the design and engraving of the ninety-five-cent Millennium Dove stamp.

A painter, Jorge has designed and engraved bank notes and coins for the Bank of Mexico and several Latin American countries. In addition, for the 1986 soccer World Cup in Mexico he designed six commemorative silver coins. One of these won the International Numismatic Award from the city of Varese, Italy.

Canadian ten-dollar bill



José Osios



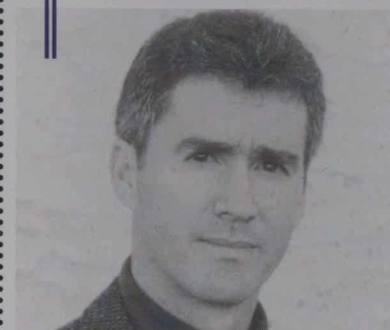
Another Latin American who has left his mark on Canada's currency is José Osios of the Royal Canadian Mint. Born in Valencia, Venezuela, he came to Canada in 1979 to study English at Carleton University in Ottawa, where he met his future wife. He went on to study visual arts at Ottawa's Algonquin College, and dental technology at Toronto's George Brown College.

His unique combination of skills in art, magnification and detail work brought him to the Mint in 1997. José is responsible for the layout, modelling and creation of Canadian and international coins. Among his favourite creations: the 1999 gold Provincial Flowers coin for Prince Edward Island; the Lunar Coins series, featuring last year's popular Dragon coin; and the January 2000 Pride coin.

Royal Canadian Mint gold coin for 1999



Germán Jaramillo-Mckenzie



A native of Colombia, Germán Jaramillo-Mckenzie earned a degree from the University of Bogotá before coming to Canada in 1989. Settling in Regina, he soon found a position as an art instructor at the Neil Balkwill Civic Arts Centre.

Germán's creations have been exhibited in Canada, Colombia, China, Hong Kong and the United States; and his works are found in private collections around the world. His spectacular murals adorn buildings in Canada and Colombia. He has received art awards from institutions in Canada, Colombia and the United States.

From Way Up North (oil on masonite, 1998)



Ena J. Auguste



Born in Miragoâne in Haiti, Ena Auguste is a professional nurse working in Québec City. She moved there 37 years ago after graduating from the Mandell School in New York. Outside her hospital duties, she taught herself to paint and became an accomplished visual artist. Her work has won recognition here and in New York, Paris and Haiti. She is the recipient of several awards from institutions in Canada and abroad.

Hibiscus

