



Diego Rivera

Mexican muralist

Work is rooted in labour struggles
and how we shape identity
And anti-colonialism

Detroit Industry, Institute of Arts 1932-33

Mexican Muralism

History of Muralism in Pre Colonial period

Socio-political

Post Revolutionary

Identity and place

Connection to Pre colonial life

Opposition to European Tradition

Propaganda

“Mexican art should reflect
Mexican life” – Gerardo Murillo

Tenochtitlan, Palacio Nacional 1944



The History of Mexico

1929-1935

Stretches stairwell of national palace main hall

Three parts – past, the struggle, future

Highly Figurative

Blends histories

Optimism



Personal Response to works

Art for the people

Removes a gatekeeping intermediary

Reclaiming space

Power Structure Imbalance

‘for the people’



Man At the crossroads 1934



Joel
McMenamin,
NZ, Fielding
Water tank

Can you make meaningful critique of a system while within and directly benefiting from that system?