José Luis Reza filming the artisan Mario Gaspar Rodriguez as he extracts red clay for its use in the ancient Purépecha technique of *maque*.

**The Work of Art (El Oficio del Arte)**

This beautifully filmed documentary explores the works and lives of six highly skilled artisans working with traditional methods in the region of Lake Pátzcuaro, Michoacán, México, an area renowned for its rich “folk art” (*artesanías* or *artes populares*). The focus of the film is the process of creation itself. It features three artisans who carefully buy their materials, working them into beautiful saleable products, and three Grand Masters, who dominate every aspect of the process, from extracting clay with pickaxes in the nearby hills, to creating their own colors from earth and plant materials, to pounding red-hot copper disks. The cinematography invites viewers to feel as if they are right there with the artisans, seeing their worlds in everything from intimate close-ups to grand and scenic panoramas. In the course of showing artistic process, the film also reveals the importance of family, the hazards of their work, the difficulties of pricing, the Juried Competition system used throughout Mexico to promote and encourage the making of *artesanías*, the artisans’ thoughts on clients—completely in their own words, with no voice-over narration, no external experts, and using only local sounds and music. Produced and directed by Shelly Errington, photographed and edited by José Luis Reza. In Spanish with English subtitles. 1 hr. 23 min.

Shelly Errington taught and wrote on Visual Culture prior to retiring as Professor of Anthropology at UCSC, including courses on arts, histories of ethnographic film, and photography and anthropology. She did non-degree work in documentary film and multimedia journalism at the Berkeley School of Journalism in 2003-4, and subsequently collaborated with the Mexican cinematographer José Luis Reza to create *The Work of Art / El Oficio del Arte*. This work has been shown in Mexico, Spain, and France, and will be shown in Mexico City March 19, 2020 (International Day of the Artisan), sponsored by FONART (Fondo Nacional para el Fomento de las Artesanías). With recently added English subtitles, it is now ready for release and screening in Anglophone countries. You are invited to view it at UCSC on February 13, 2020.

Social Sciences 2 Room 75 7:15–9:30 PM