WORKSHEET 2

Talavera Poblana

When we look at the plates, jars, vases, and tiles, we can detect the confluence of several extraordinary cultures in this type of art. We can easily observe distinctive characteristics of Spanish, Arabic, Italian and Chinese origin, and of course the magnificent creativity of the Mestizos and Indigenous people of Mexico.

**Arabic:** It is Arabic in its designs and use of mineral pigments. Keep in mind that the Moors conquered Spain and had tremendous influence on all the artistic expressions of Spain.

**Italian:** It is from this Mediterranean country that the term Majolica originates, and it refers to a process that the Italians used since the 14th Century to produce ceramics. This technique consisted of applying or brushing pigments on raw or unfired glaze.

**Spanish:** It is from Spain that the technique is brought to Mexico, with a distinctive style that came from *Talavera de la Reina.*

**Chinese:** Because of the extensive imports from China to Mexico, Chinese ceramic ware was soon imitated, particularly its designs. You can observe this similarity especially on the blue *Talavera.*

**Mexico:** It is Mexican artistry and creativity that makes of *Talavera* a contemporary art form.


Mary Herz