



December 2, 2023 - February 25, 2024

Yuyi Morales



Award-winning childrens book illustrator and author, Yuyi Morales, is featured in *Soñadora: Yuyi Morales* as part of our biennial series featuring childrens literature at the Woodson Art Museum.

Morales, born in Xalapa, Mexico in 1968, came from a family rich with storytellers. From an early age, she loved to draw and was encouraged by her father to continue. However, as she grew and began considering careers that would carry her through adulthood, she decided to study physical education at university and became a swimming coach.

Shortly after her son Kelly was born, Yuyi regained her childhood love for drawing. In 1994, she and Kelly immigrated to the United States to be with Kelly's father who was American. It was during this transition period that Yuyi explored a local library in California and fell in love with the books in the childrens section. Through picture books, she was able to understand the narratives despite the language barrier, by following pictures to decipher stories for her son.

As Kelly learned, so did Yuyi and she began pursuing illustration and children's book creation as a career. Since this initial encounter at her local public library Yuyi has become a six-time recipient of the Pura Belpré award, an award given to Latino/Latina writers and illustrators whose work best celebrates and portrays the Latino cultural experience. She has also become the first Latina to receive a Caldecott honor for her book, *Viva Frida*, which was published in 2015.

The stories Yuyi tells are influenced heavily by her Mexican upbringing and the culture she experienced both in childhood and adulthood. When creating artwork, Yuyi often uses imagery inspired by her surroundings to develop the digital works used in her books. This includes bricks from the front of her home, murals from the walls she passes in town, the pattern from shorts she sewed for her son, and even the pan that she cooks tortillas on. She weaves aspects of her daily life and the world around her into all her stories.

Yuyi is also passionate about including immigrants' perspectives in her storytelling. Whether it be in her award-winning book *Dreamers*, which tells the story of her own journey, or others, pieces of her past experiences make their way into everything she creates.



© [2018] by Yuyi Morales

Before or After Your Visit

Visual Analysis and Art-Inspired Conversation

Soñadora: Yuyi Morales artworks are well-suited for exploring the building blocks of [visual analysis](#) - the [elements of art](#) and the [principles of design](#).

Five Senses Descriptions

Art engages our five senses by investigating how something looks, feels, tastes, smells, and even sounds. Take in the artwork from the book *Just in Case: A Trickster Tale* and engage your senses. While looking at the artwork in a small group, brainstorm at least one description for each sense.

Alternative: With a partner, imagine that you have lost the use of one of your senses. Have your partner describe images from the illustration that would help you imagine what that image may sound like, smell like, feel like, look like, or taste like.



© [2008] by Yuyi Morales



© [2011] by Yuyi Morales

Exploring Dialogue

Write a dialogue between two figures in this image from *Ladder to the Moon*. What is each character thinking? What would they want to ask or tell one another? What would they say in a conversation?

Alternative: Select a person or animal from two different works of art in this packet and imagine the conversation they would have with each other. Write out the dialogue you created, then act it out with a partner.

Interior Monologue

Imagine you can hear the thoughts of the children in the artwork from *Ladder to the Moon*. Using a stream-of-consciousness writing style, write a monologue of these thoughts. Read them aloud and see if your classmates can guess which child's thoughts you have recorded.

During Your Visit

During a docent-led experience of *Soñadora: Yuyi Morales*, students will observe art on view, share their impressions during guided conversations, and explore hands-on objects and art materials designed to illuminate exhibition artworks and themes

Following their time in the galleries, students in PreK - 2nd grade will explore luchador culture and create their own luchador mask with mixed media art making inspired by *Niño Wrestles the World*.

Students in 3rd grade - 12th grade will explore the history behind papel picado, or cut paper, and create their own.



© by Yuyi Morales

Schedule Your Visit

Schedule a docent-led visit for your class by connecting with the Museum via email, scheduling@lywam.org or by phone, 715.845.7010.

Woodson Art Museum Information

Please encourage your students to visit the Museum again, admission is always free.

Contact

Call the Woodson Art Museum at 715.845.7010 or visit the website for more information: www.lywam.org

Hours

Tuesday - Friday

9am - 4pm

First Thursday of each month

9am - 7:30pm

Saturday - Sunday

12pm - 5pm

Closed on Monday and holidays, including Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.