

Harvard / Latin American Leventritt Lecture
Art Museum

The Humanist Experiment
of a Syncretic Liturgy
for the New Christian Kingdom
of New Spain

485 Broadway, Cambridge, MA 02138
www.harvardartmuseum.org

Wednesday March 10, 6pm
Arthur M. Sackler Museum Lecture Hall

Pablo Escalante Gonzalbo, *Universidad
Nacional Autónoma de México*

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Presented as part of the collaboration between the Harvard Art Museum and the David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies to bring scholarship in Latin American art to the Harvard and surrounding communities. The M. Victor Leventritt Lecture Fund was established through the generosity of the wife, children, and friends of the late M. Victor Leventritt, Harvard Class of 1935. The purpose of the fund is to present outstanding scholars of the history and theory of art to the Harvard and Greater Boston communities.



Paten, 16th century. Clay, from the Valley of Mexico.
Hemeroteca Nacional, Mexico. Photo: Antonio Peñafiel
(1909) and Biblioteca Nacional de México.

Native Mesoamerican symbols, ornaments, singing, and dancing played a central role in 16th-century Christian liturgy in New Spain. Spanish friars, mostly Franciscans, believed that this syncretic practice would result in more authentic Christian worship among indigenous people. Religious and secular authorities supported intercultural dialogue, especially in the Franciscan school in Tlatelolco, the Colegio de la Santa Cruz, as essential to building a rationalized structure for the syncretic project.

Sackler Lecture Hall, 485 Broadway,
Cambridge, MA. Free and open to the public.