

Pacha Mama-Mother Earth Latin America

A Coloring Book Adventure

by
Betty LaDuke



PERU

Pacha Mama - Mother Earth - Latin America

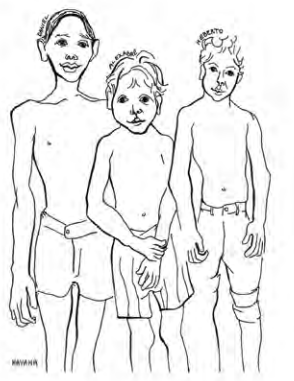
ECUADOR / THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS



HONDURAS / GRENADA



CUBA - 1982



MEXICO / ECUADOR / PERU



Pacha Mama-Mother Earth

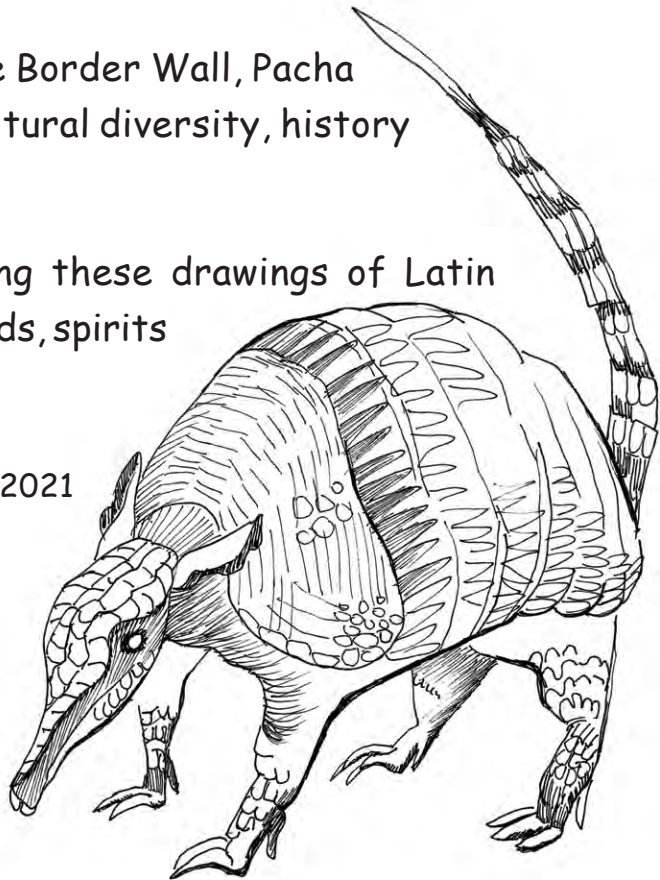
Latin America

A Coloring Book Adventure

Betty LaDuke

- In this coloring book you will travel with me to Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia from 1953-2019
- You will experience people's dependency and reverence for Pacha Mama for their food, shelter and clothing in my drawings of the Maguey plant, the blessing of corn, beans and wheat seeds at a church altar in Mexico and at an Indigenous Ceremony in Peru.
- In Chiapas, Mexico you will see indigenous people organizing to defend their land and cultural heritage. They wear masks for their safety.
- From the Maguey plant to the Border Wall, Pacha Mama is a coloring book of cultural diversity, history and change.
- I hope you will enjoy coloring these drawings of Latin American's, their creative hands, spirits and cultural resilience.

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Mexico, the Indigenous Otomie people

In the Land of "Sterile Clouds"
-Ixmiquilpan 1955



An Ayate cloth for carrying vegetables from garden plot to market.



Spinning the course Maguey plant fiber into thread for weaving basic ayates, or carrying cloths.



Prayers offered. The ayate often carries babies.

The Maguey plant is the Staff of Life because:

- This plant survives in dry arid soil
- It provides pulque, a nutritious beverage
- Fiber for weaving cloth and textiles
- Thatch for roofs

In the late 1960's a dam was constructed that brought water for crop irrigation and electricity. I visited in 1979. The drawings follow.





Mexico, Easter Altar: Seedlings of corn and wheat in clay pots are placed at the church altar for the blessing of the crops. Xoxo, Mexico 1979

MEXICO



Lollipops - before (1956), villagers walked six miles to the nearest store.
In 1979 there are two stores and many snacks. -San Juanico, Mexico 1979



SAN JUANICO - JUANA

In her bamboo and thatch kitchen, Juana now enjoys a light bulb and the radio while she grinds corn into masa for tortillas -San Juanico 1979



Inez Ibarra spins thread for weaving bags for school children's books or tourist items to earn income -Ixmiqulpan, Mexico 1979



In Chiapas, Mexico, woven tapestry patterns often include images of masked Zapatistas. They represent the indigenous people who want to retain their land and traditions.



Indigenous people meet and plan how to maintain control of their land and resources. Acteal, Chiapas 2003



CHIAPAS MEXICO: LAND AND LIBERTY

In this symbolic drawing the Zapatista indigenous people wear masks for protection from the military as they organize to keep control of their ancestral land and culture.

GUATEMALA



Concepcion and her husband wear traditional clothes from fiber that she has spun, woven and embroidered. She also weaves items for tourists.

-Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala 1982



Traditional fabric patterns identify the weaver's village and identity.
Juan San Jorge, Santiago Atitlan, Guatemala 1982



Xylophone rhythms are enjoyed at festivals. It has a row of wooden bars that are struck by mallets. Gourds are suspended below the bars.



The volcano San Pedro has erupted causing great destruction. In my drawing, prayers are offered to placate the volcanic spirits. Lake Atitlan, Guatemala 1973



During festivals danzantes or dancers satirically re-enact the history of the Spanish conquistadores or conquerors in the 16th century.
Chichicastenango, Guatemala 1976



Reverence for Pacha Mama and the patron saints is expressed with prayers and candles. Chichicastenango, Guatemala 1976

NICARAGUA



After defeating the Somoza dictatorship, hope for a better future is expressed on the market wall: "Sandino Lives" Managua, Nicaragua 1981



Baskets are necessary for transporting crops from farm to market. Weaving skills are a valuable community resource and means of earning income. Monimbo, Nicaragua 1981



For 23 years Trinity Medical Mission brings a team of doctors to rural Nicaragua for one week of basic health care. El Sarayal, Nicaragua 2014



Waiting for the clinic to open.
La Naranja, Nicaragua 2014

PERU, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA



There are many trips to bring the grain harvest from distant mountain plots to the village. - Peru 1994



Villages and small farm plots of corn, wheat and potatoes are nestled in the foothills of the Andes Mountains.



Women work together chopping weeds. They are responsible for feeding their families. Men leave home to work for wages at commercial farms and mines.
Tarata, Bolivia 1994



The curanderos or healers Eloy Aymchoque and Elena Scalla present offerings of incense, herbs and aqua fuerte or hard liquor in a ceremony to honor Pacha Mama. Cuchuma, Peru 1995



Paolo and Aurelio were recipients of sheep given by the organization Heifer International. Now they share the offspring with village neighbors in a Pass On Ceremony. Cuchima, Peru 1995 (see cover)



In a Pass On ceremony of Alpacas, the recipients are told "we took care of these animals with much love. Now you have to do the same." Conduriri, Peru 2005



Aide Caballero and her son Ariel are carefully shaving the lamb wool. It takes one month of preparation by washing, carding, dyeing and spinning the wool into yarn before weaving can begin. Huayculi, Bolivia 1994



Metal stakes hold Juana Velasco's loom firmly on the ground as she weaves a traditional carrying blanket.
Alto Paquipucio, Copacabano, Bolivia 1994



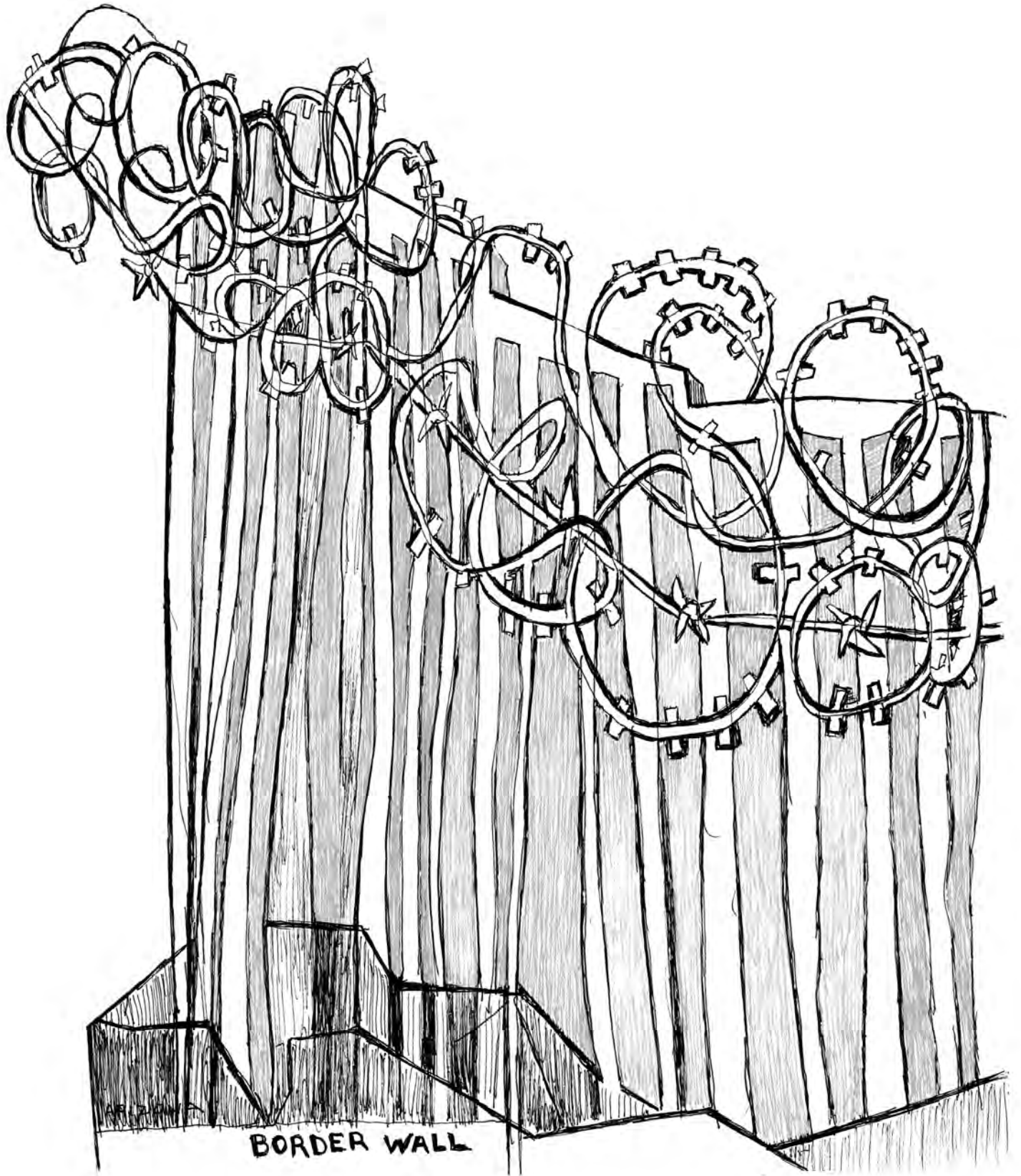
On market day fruits and vegetables are carried in a traditional carrying blanket from village to market. They are also displayed on the same carrying blanket. Cochabamba, Bolivia 2005



Cultural pride: healthy children wearing traditional champas or sweaters, hats and shawls. - Bolivia 2005



Caravans of desperate migrants walk long distances to the US border hoping to enter the United States. They hope for a better future for their children.



Border Wall: Migrants leave their countries because of violence, corruption, climate change and no work. Nogales, Mexico/USA 2019

Betty LaDuke

As a child growing up in the Bronx, New York, I filled many coloring books. Later at the High School of Music and Art in Harlem, we were encouraged to make drawings of our family and neighborhood environments. I enjoyed the challenge and have never stopped exploring, sketching and painting.

I was lucky to receive a scholarship to study art in Mexico, and lived there from 1953-1956. During that time I was invited to paint murals on the patio walls of rural schools in indigenous Otomie villages near Ixmiquilpan. Village life was a basic experience of people's creative survival in a dry arid climate where the Maquey plant was the staff of life. Years later, I returned to sketch and witness changes in Ixmiquilpan and in 14 Latin American countries.

In my home studio the travel sketches inspired many paintings (see back cover). I have had numerous exhibits, Latin American Impressions and Retrospectives at Museums and Art Centers in the U.S.

I have also honored artisans and artists of Latin America that inspired my work in the following books:

- *Companeras: Women, Art and Social Change in Latin America*, City Lights 1989
- *Women Against Hunger*, Africa World Press 2005
- Social change is documented in *Migrants, Borderlands and Social Justice*, Africa World Press 2019

From college art student to Professor of Art at Southern Oregon University and from mother to great grand-mother, I have experienced many personal changes.

Pacha Mama - our Earth is undergoing severe climate changes across all borders. No one is secure. We have to work together for common solutions.

BUILD BRIDGES, NOT WALLS.



Notes

The 30 drawings in this Coloring Book Adventure are based on real experiences over many decades 1953-2019. There are many surprises and examples of cultural change, pride and resilience. Some background information follows.

- Latin America is composed of 20 nations with diverse languages, ancient indigenous cultural roots and traditions. For the indigenous people, Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) is a living, spirited being with whom it is important to maintain a harmonious relationship.
- Spanish is the language most commonly spoken, but in many communities, indigenous languages dominate: Quechua, Amayra, Nahuatal, Shuar, etc.
- Chiapas, a state in southern Mexico has a strong indigenous (people of the land) roots. The Zapatista movement organized indigenous communities to resist the takeover of their lands. Masks were worn during political protests.
- Some of my drawings were made while traveling with the organization Freedom from Hunger (FFH) 1997 which encourages women's initiative, Credit with Education. FFH provides small loans for expanding and marketing their creative work and initiating new projects.
- Heifer International (HI) 2009 provides gifts of livestock, alpacas, llamas or sheep with the provision of sharing offspring. The "Pass On" ceremony.
- Trinity Medical Mission (2014). For 23 years, a medical team from New Orleans provides annual, free, one week health clinics in rural Nicaragua.

My artwork celebrating local farms and farmworkers in Oregon 2011-2016 led to my interest and concern about new migrants, mothers and children at our border with Mexico. Sketching in 2019 at the Border Wall in Nogales, Mexico and Nogales, Arizona led to a new series of artwork and the book *Migrants, Border Lands and Social Justice*.

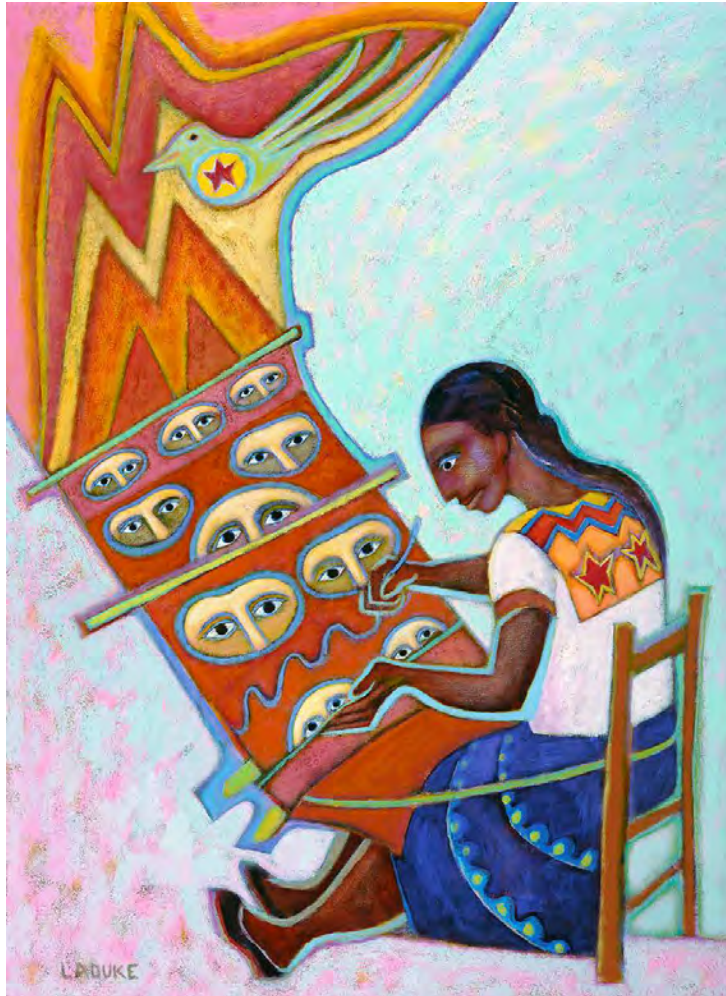
From the Lollipop to the Border Wall, there is much for you to experience as you bring your own colors to these real life events.



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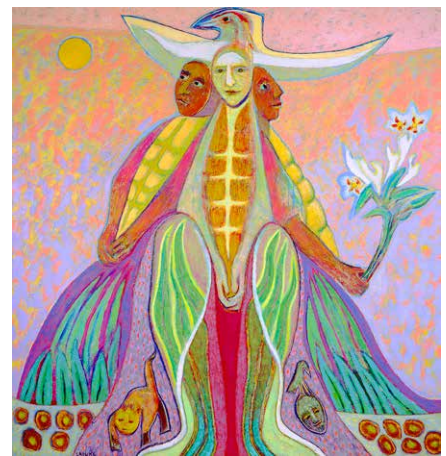
by Betty LaDuke



Zapatista Weaver, Chiapas, Mexico



Ecuador



Peru



Bolivia



Peru



Peru