José Clemente Orozco was one of the three great Mexican muralists, along with Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros. Pomona College is home to Orozco’s *Prometheus* mural, created in 1930 and recognized as one of the artist’s masterpieces.

The Pomona College Museum of Art introduces “Orozco in Focus,” a new series of lectures by prominent national and international scholars examining the artistic, social and political significance of Orozco’s work.

The “Orozco in Focus” series will be inaugurated, on Nov. 13, at 7 p.m., with “Revising Orozco,” a lecture by Alejandro Anreus, associate professor of art history and Latin American studies at William Patterson University. The lecture will be held in Frary Dining Hall (347 E. Sixth St., Claremont), the location of Orozco’s stunning *Prometheus* mural. The lecture will be in the private dining room, and will be followed by an examination of the painting with Anreus.

In his talk, Anreus will examine key issues within Orozco’s artistic production, including his stylistic shifts, misunderstood politics, view of history and “social expressionism.” Anreus is an authority on the art of Latin America and the author of *Orozco in Gringoland* (2001) and co-editor of *Mexican Muralism: A Critical History* (2012). The lecture will be held in the Pomona College Frary Hall private dining room (347 E. Sixth St., Claremont, CA), followed by a reception in front of Orozco’s *Prometheus* mural. Anreus’s lecture is co-sponsored by the Pomona College Romance Languages and Literatures Department.

On Feb. 6, Dartmouth College professor Mary Coffey will give the second “Orozco in Focus” lecture, exploring Orozco’s relationship to history, myth, and the public. Coffey is a specialist in the history of modern Mexican visual culture and has published widely on Orozco.

Pomona College’s *Prometheus* is the first mural painted in the U.S. by one of Los Tres Grandes of Mexican muralism and a work that Jackson Pollock declared the greatest contemporary painting in North America. Orozco’s revolutionary work of art
portrays Prometheus in the act of bringing fire to humanity.

The “Orozco in Focus” series is presented in conjunction with the Museum’s research and planning for the 2017 exhibition, “Prometheus 1930/2017,” supported by a grant from the Getty Foundation as part of Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA. “Orozco in Focus” is supported in part by the Janet Inskeep Benton ’79 Fund for Museum Programming and presented in collaboration with Pomona College faculty and departmental partners.

For the “Prometheus 1930/2017” project, the research team—Rebecca McGrew, Pomona College Museum of Art senior curator; Terri Geis, Pomona College Museum of Art curator of academic programs; Mary Coffey, Dartmouth College professor of art history; and Daniel Garza Usabiaga, chief curator at el Museo Universitario del Chopo, in Mexico City—will explore the politics of Orozco’s mural and its public mode of communication of social and political positions. Orozco’s vision of Prometheus as an allegory for art that attempts to reach a wider audience—bringing knowledge and enlightenment to the masses—highlights his efforts to transform society.

The exhibition and accompanying publication will examine where and how these traditions of communicative visual strategies married to political dialogue resonate with contemporary artists from Mexico who utilize strategies of activist art, public intervention, social practice, and engaged historical or archival research to connect with a broader public and advance or critique social and political causes.

“Prometheus 1930/2017” is scheduled to open at Pomona College in September 2017 and will travel to el Museo Universitario del Chopo in Mexico City in 2018.

About Pomona College Museum of Art
The Pomona College Museum of Art is located at 330 N. College Avenue, Claremont. The Museum is open to the public free of charge Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, from noon to 11 p.m. For more information, call (909) 621-8283 or visit the museum’s Website: www.pomona.edu/museum.

The Pomona College Museum of Art houses a substantial permanent collection as well as serving as a gallery for the display of temporary exhibitions. Important holdings include the Kress Collection of 15th- and 16th-century Italian panel paintings; more than 5,000 examples of Pre-Columbian to 20th-century American Indian art and artifacts; and a large collection of American and European prints, drawings, and photographs.