

*Art Vids for Kids*  
*February 2021*

learning library  
ONLINE!



## BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Hi, my name is Violette-Anne and I am a Museum Guide at the Dayton Art Institute where this colorful painting can be seen. In this video, I will ask you questions, so feel free to pause the video when that happens and take time for yourself to respond.

This painting's title is *Vendedoras de Frutas*. It was painted about 80 years ago. Do you know which language this is? It is Spanish, a language spoken in Spain and all over the Americas. Can you guess what the title means? I'll give you two hints. One: the root of the first word is the same as an English word. Maybe you have heard of vending machines, where snacks and drinks are for sale? Two: the third word of the title sounds a lot like the English word for what you see in the platters. Did you guess? The translation in English is: "The Fruit Vendors" or "The Fruit Sellers."

There is so much to look at! My eyes love seeing colors, so this painting makes me very happy. The artist uses both warm and cool colors in this work. Warm colors are red, orange, and yellow. They can give a painting a sense of energy and action. Cool colors are green, blue, and purple. They can create a calm and relaxing effect.

# DAYTON ART INSTITUTE

Let's look at the cool colors first. Do you see how they form a frame around the women? The green belongs to the ferns of a palm tree on the left, another tree on the top right, and what looks like an agave plant on the lower right. Blue is used for the mountains visible behind the women in the background. Why do you think the artist chose blue? In my experience, mountains can look blue at sunrise, sunset, or when a storm is approaching. What time of day do you think it is, and what clues led you to your guess? Because these women are fruit vendors, and their platters are full of fruit, I would think it is early morning and they are on their way to a market.

Next, the warm colors: pause the video and count how many areas of yellow you can see. So, how many did you find? I counted six: the fruit in three different platters, the flowers decorating the highest platter, the yellow dress, and the yellow flowers on the right. If you'd like, you can play the same finding game with the colors orange and pink and you will see that, just like the color yellow, they are found left, right, up, and down. These spots of repeated colors all over the painting, and the fact that the women all look in a different direction, make our eyes jump from here to there, giving a feeling of energy and movement, even though the women are standing quite still.

The artist who made this painting is Alfredo Ramos Martínez. He was born and raised in Mexico, and he was so talented that he won a scholarship to study art in Mexico City when he was just 14 years old! He eventually became the director of the main art school there, where he taught students a new way to paint by working outdoors instead of copying traditional art in a classroom.

He moved to California with his family, but he kept his ties with his native country in part by painting the indigenous people and flora of Mexico, just like we see here. Indigenous means that these people, and their ancestors before them, have lived on the land for a very long time. Alfredo Ramos Martínez wanted to present to the world the beauty of his native land and of its native people. I think he greatly succeeded in doing just that in this painting. What do you think?

Thank you for joining me in discovering art at the DAI! You can see this artwork at the museum in the Sharon and Matthew Price Gallery of Early 20th Century American Art, gallery 204.

## END TRANSCRIPT

Click [here](#) for full multimedia presentation.

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## QUESTIONS?

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