

Who was Enrique Alférez?

Biography

Enrique Alférez was a Mexican-American artist who lived from 1903-1999. He was born in Zacatecas, Mexico and served in the Mexican Revolution as a youth. He emigrated to Texas and then studied art in Chicago. In 1929, he made his way to Louisiana, and for almost 70 years, he created art in New Orleans. You can see his lasting imprint in figurative sculptures, monuments, fountains, and architectural details in prominent locations from the Central Business District to the shore of Lake Pontchartrain and beyond.



Photo courtesy of Tlaloc Alférez

Fun Facts!

He identified as Aztec, and his first language was a variety of Nahuatl. He also spoke Spanish and English.

His father, Longinos Alférez, was a sculptor, too!

In 2001, the New Orleans City Council proclaimed the month of May “Enrique Alférez Month”

His sculptures were often figurative, which means they were based on the human body.

In New Orleans City Park, you can drive down Enrique Alférez Drive and visit The Helis Foundation Enrique Alférez Sculpture Garden.

In New Orleans, he was a member of the Arts and Crafts Club at 520 Royal Street, a building which is now part of The Historic New Orleans Collection.

He made art with many materials including clay, stone, leather, wood, papier-mâché, plaster, bronze, lead, concrete, steel, gold, and silver.