

Tepozanilli project
By Rebecca Nava Soto
Xinachkalko

Xinachkalko is a collective indigenous space in Cuentepec. Morelos, Mexico, and the core inspiration for my project TEPOZZANILLI: LIVE STREAM TRANSMISSION

The Tepozanilli: Live Stream Transmission Project was born of a desire to reconnect to my indigenous ancestry. The series was in response to a self-directed research trip to Morelos, Mexico this past year to the pyramid fortress city of Xochicalco (city of flowers) where people first settled in the area 2,222 years ago, and to nearby Cuentepec to visit their descendants. A pueblo where they are maintaining art-making practices that date back several millennia. In this community the primary language is Nahuatl. Nahuatl is one of 68 indigenous languages and dialects being spoken today in Mexico. In this language a flourishing world view, Art literature, philosophy and everything that exists in the Nahuatl world lives on.

200 years ago 70 percent of the population spoke a native language today it is about 5 percent. Yet, there is hope that this language and Nahuatl world may continue with your support.

Xinachkalko is a collective Indigenous space founded by Indigenous scholar and Cuentepec resident Victorino Torres Nava. Victorino is also a professor at the Anahuacalmecac International University Preparatory Of North America in Los Angeles. I invite you to read his words below and donate using the QR code below to support the building of Xinachkalko in Cuentepec, Morelos, Mexico.

"Xinachkalko is a space of refuge and development of our identity through our Nahuatl language. It is born of the necessity to protect us in the face of linguisticide that the state continues to advance towards the pueblo. This is an effort to preserve the language of our ancestors. This stronghold is sustained not just as a community of Nahuatl, but of a nation with our own ways of seeing and naming the world, through our language, our tongue and our normative systems. Xinachkalko is not a cultural center, beyond a sanctuary for cultural roots, it holds a way of life that has been denied to us. It is a space of flourishing of our art, philosophy, literature and all that exists in our Nahuatl world."

10% of any sale from the Tepozzanilli: Live Stream Transmission series will go to support the Xinachkalko collective indigenous space in Cuentepec, Morelos, México.