



# Alebrijes

Over 100 years ago in Mexico City, an artist named Pedro Linares was very sick and he fell into a deep sleep. He dreamt of a strange and magical place that resembled a forest. He saw trees, animals, rock and clouds that turned into bizarre animals. He saw a donkey with butterfly wings, a rooster with bull's horns, a lion with the head of an eagle and all of them were shouting, "Alebrijes, Alebrijes!" Suddenly he woke up, he thought the creatures came to help and protect him. He recovered from his illness and soon created his fantastical creatures.

In Mexico many generations of artists have made Alebrije out of a sacred wood called copal. Alebrije are considered sacred beings. They take a long time to make because they are made with a lot of love, hard work and patience. Every Alebrije has a unique and special message to give.

