Pictography and Memory in Seventeenth-Century Atzaqualco, Mexico

In the mid-to-late seventeenth century, Nahua artists and scribes in San Sebastián Atzaqualco, the northeast sector of Mexico City, painted the most elaborately detailed Mexican pictorial catechism and then made it tell more stories, overlaying it with texts and images referencing preconquest and early colonial history. The talk will explore how these mid-colonial Atzaqualca reframed the past: they reclaimed pictographic writing to indigenize the Roman Catholic catechism and they asserted ties to a son of Moteuczoma, exaggerating his deeds. Grand statements of religious and political legitimacy were inscribed in this small, well-worn book.

The Institute for Mesoamerican Studies presents:

Dr. Louise Burkhart

Friday Nov. 13 at 3:30 pm in FA 126