



## GORKY GONZALEZ SIGNED MAJOLICA PLATES OWNED BY NYC SOCIALITE BROOKE ASTOR

BAS-001

Exclusive set of Mexican Majolica plates, signed by Gorky Gonzalez Quiñones with "GTO MEX" and "Gorky" markings, owned by legendary NYC socialite and philanthropist Brooke Astor. A treasured find for collectors and enthusiasts of unique pieces with a story to tell!

Gorky González Quiñones (1939 – 2017) was a prominent Mexican potter who received the prestigious award “Premio Nacional de Ciencias y Artes” for saving Mexican Majolica from extinction. Majolica pottery was introduced to Mexico in the early 1500’s. Puebla became the center of production with its rich indigenous clay deposits. During the 1600’s, Puebla formed a potters’ guild with ordinances regulating Majolica production by requiring signatures, logos and manufacturer locations. Gorky González was first introduced to Spanish Majolica during the 1900’s when two antique pots were brought into his antique shop. At that time, Majolica was nearly extinct in his region. Trained in Mexican and Japanese pottery techniques, he learned how to make Majolica in his Guanajuato ceramics workshop, ultimately saving Mexican Majolica from extinction. His work exhibits around the world.

Brooke Astor (1902-2007) was a legendary NY socialite, Vogue, Vanity Fair, House and Garden editor, tastemaker, author, and NYC’s greatest philanthropist who lived to 105!



Brooke married billionaire Vincent Astor, whose great-great-grandfather John Jacob Astor (1763-1848) was America's first multi-millionaire from real estate, fur and opium trade. Vincent's father John Jacob Astor IV (1864-1912) died aboard the RMS Titanic leaving Vincent (1891-1959), then a Harvard freshman, heir to the family fortunes. Vincent died of a heart attack five years into their marriage leaving Brooke in charge of the Vincent Astor Foundation, its mission being "the alleviation of human misery." The Astor fortune was built in NYC, Brooke therefore wanted to give it back to the city. New York Times called her "NYC's First Lady of Philanthropy," others called her "NYC's Fairy Godmother;" she donated \$200+ million to NYC libraries, schools, museums, hospitals, homeless shelters, historic preservation, animal welfare and community programs.

She was personally involved (at some level), knowing and advocating for the organizations she gave to. She was high society, no matter whom or where she met in the city, she dressed in her iconic matching suits, hats, gloves, and jewels. She knew they expected to see Mrs. Astor, not a drab old lady, she wouldn't think of disappointing them!

Prominent socialite, she hired legendary Albert Hadley and Sister Parish to design her Park Ave. apartment where she entertained presidents and first ladies like Jackie Kennedy (Jackie also hired Albert Hadley and Sister Parish), writers, philanthropists, designers and celebrities like Oscar and Annette de la Renta, David Rockefeller, Barbara Walters and Camilla Parker Bowles. Albert Hadley designed her illustrious red-lacquer and brass-trimmed library, one of the most celebrated interiors of the 20th Century. Sister Parish designed Brooke's summer estate in Northeast Harbor Maine, followed by Mark Hampton and Nancy Pierrepont, rooms were layered in chintzy botanical patterns. It's this colonial estate that these acquired plates are from.

We know it's hard to find one-of-a-kind pieces! Shop our listings for new inventory curated from an Interior Architect and Designer's POV. THE TASTEMAKER SHOPPE offers an exclusive mix of furnishings founded solely on good taste, not limited by any style or era!

24.75"W x 3"D x 24.75"H

