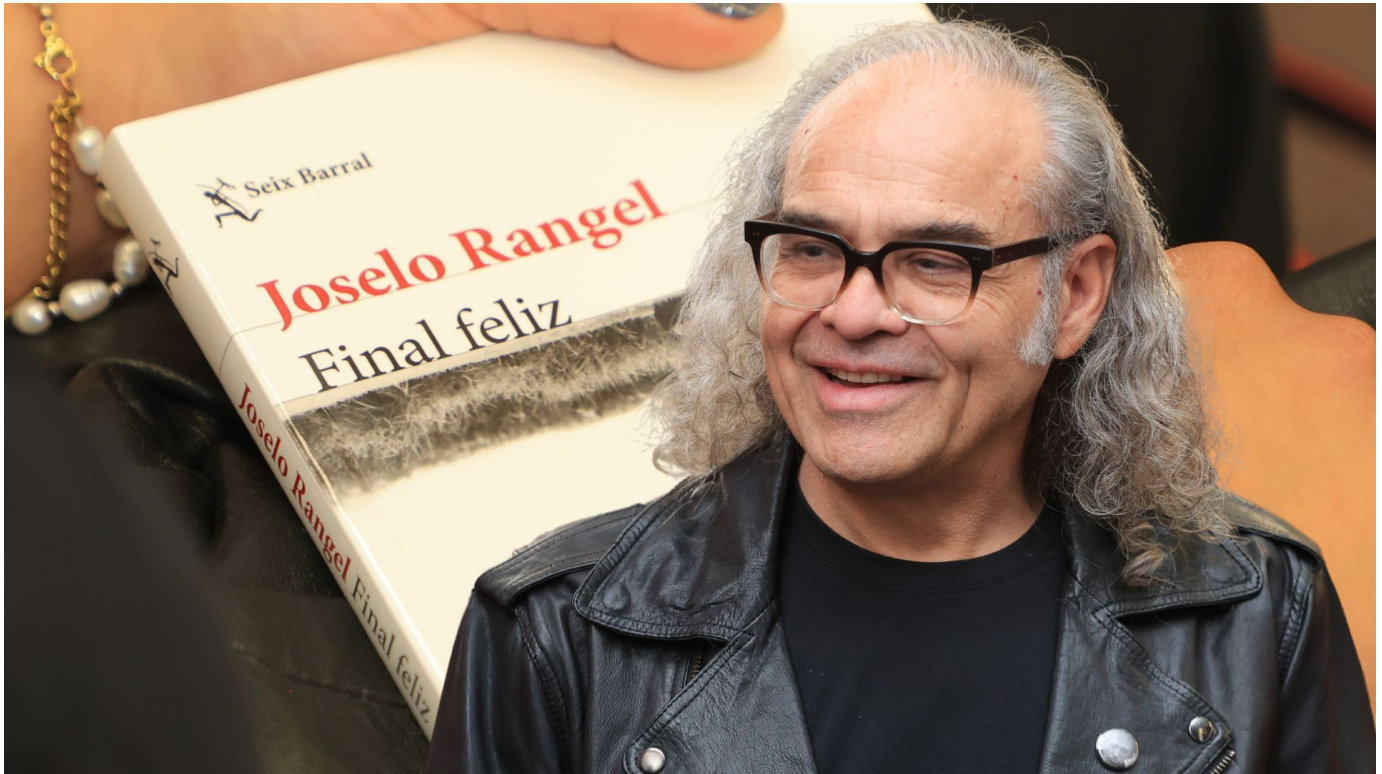


Art & Humanity: 4 key insights from Café Tacvba founder Joselo Rangel



Joselo Rangel, a founding member of Café Tacvba, shared four insights on art, fiction, humor, and his relationship to the humanities.

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María Sánchez & AM Studios

Musician and writer **Joselo Rangel**, a founding member of the alternative rock band **Café Tacvba**, visited the Tec as part of **Humanities Week** held on its [State of Mexico campus](#), where he presented his latest book: *Final feliz* (Happy Ending).

This collection brings together **twelve short stories** that explore themes such as love, memory, and goodbyes through a narrative which blends **the ordinary with the extraordinary**.

However, beyond the book launch, the event focused on **creative processes**, anecdotes, the role of **art in everyday life**, and the ways in which **writing** can challenge notions of masculinity, memory, and emotions.

*“You don’t know what’s inside you, but **art brings it to light**. That’s what I **love** about being an artist,” **Rangel** said.*

Joselo Rangel during the presentation of his book “Final feliz” on the Tec’s State of Mexico campus. Photo: AM Studios



As part of his presentation, **Joselo Rangel** shared these **four reflections** on art, writing, and his relationship with the **human condition**:

1. Art as a subversive act

Rangel talked about art’s capacity to **reveal unknown aspects** of oneself.

The writer highlighted that while creativity involves both **literary** and personal **risks**, it is also a form of **constant discovery**.

He recalled that, after publishing one of his books, even **his close friends and family** were surprised by what they read, which made him realize how his own writings could reveal **aspects of himself** he hadn't known until then.

*"**Art** does something to us; you never know what will **come out of you**,"* the artist said.

2. Humor as a response to life

According to the author, humor **is not an end in itself**, but a **natural consequence** of observing reality.

*"It's a **response to the busy lives** we lead. If I thought about wars all the time, I wouldn't get out of bed. Art **has saved me**,"* said the **Café Tacvba** member.

Through a **narrative style** in which humor arises almost by chance, **Rangel** said that laughter **comes naturally, without aiming for it**.

He added that although he doesn't write with the intention of **making people laugh**, he ends up doing so as a natural consequence of the way he **observes and recounts life**.

Joselo Rangel spent some time with students at the Tec's State of Mexico campus. Photo: AM Studios



3. Curiosity about the human condition

His stories begin with **everyday situations**—relationships, memories, or even chance encounters—and **evolve into tales** with unexpected twists, in which the fantastical and the philosophical **emerge from the ordinary**.

Rangel describes himself as a **tireless observer**—“a die-hard gossip,” he says—though he clarifies that what truly interests him is the **human condition** and understanding people’s emotions, struggles, and even contradictions.

He recalled how, even as a young man, he enjoyed **listening to and imagining the stories** of those around him, wondering, for example, “*Why would a couple who seem so happy suddenly have such a heated argument?*”—a curiosity that today serves as the **starting point** for his stories.

4. Discipline and craft in writing

According to **Rangel**, his experience writing columns for **Excélsior** was key to developing his perseverance. Over the years, he would send his manuscript punctually every Thursday at 2:00 p.m., a routine that he believes gave him **structure and helped him hone his craft**.

He compared **writing** to any activity that requires **time and practice**, from playing a musical instrument to playing video games. Over time, amid stories of the band's travels, books, movies, and everyday life, he discovered something more personal: **science fiction**.

For a whole year, he wrote **52 short stories** that he posted on a blog—a practice that, although not his original intention, he believes ultimately helped him **develop his narrative voice** and definitively steered him toward fiction.

In his book *Final feliz*, he offers us an **intimate glimpse into everyday life**, in which fiction becomes a means of exploring emotions, contradictions, and ways of **understanding the human experience**.

Joselo Rangel with the professors and students who attended the presentation of his book: Final Feliz. Photo: María Sánchez



Throughout the last 17 years, The Tec's **Humanities Week** on its State of Mexico campus has served as a forum for **reflecting on the human condition** through philosophy, literature, and the arts.

In this 2026 edition, the aim was to bring these topics closer to the community by focusing on **everyday life and emotions**. With that in mind, **Joselo Rangel's** visit made the connection directly between writing and the **cultural industries**.

"That's what I love about art: you don't know what's inside you, and art brings it out." —Joselo Rangel.

*"The institution reaffirms its commitment to serving as a **gathering place** where cultural expressions converge, voices engage in dialogue, and a **humanistic***

education comes to life both inside and outside the classroom.”

*“**Joselo Rangel’s** presence is significant because he embodies two pillars: **symbolic expression** through literature and the **cultural industries**,”* concluded **José Manuel Noriega**, a professor in the Department of Humanities at the **Tec’s State of Mexico campus**.

Among its activities, **Humanities Week** featured workshops and educational sessions on topics such as **neurodiversity**, emotional wellbeing, crafts, **creative writing**, sustainable development, music, and poetry.

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