



# Lawndale Art Center's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Day of the Dead/Día de los Muertos

October 17 – November 5, 2011

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Artist Donated Retablo Intake

October 3 – 6, 2011: 10am – 5pm

### Teacher Installation

October 3 – 7, 2011: 10am – 5pm

October 8, 2011: 12pm – 5pm



### Gala and Silent Auction

Friday, October 21, 2011, 7pm – 9pm

Member and Sponsor Preview, 6pm – 7pm

\$45 per person / \$35 for Lawndale Members

(free admission for Retablo Artists)

The auction of retablos, created and donated by over 200 Texas artists, feature contemporary interpretations of this traditional, devotional art. Guests will also enjoy *Día de los Muertos* exhibitions in the Cavnar and Mezzanine Galleries which feature the works of Houston school children. Complimentary food and drinks will be provided for attending guests by local restaurants. For ticket information, call 713-528-5858.



### Musical Ofrenda

Tuesday, October 25, 2011: 6pm - 7:30pm, performances begin at 6:30pm

Join us for an evening of celebration and remembrance. During *Día de los Muertos* families create ofrendas or altars to remember and honor the memory of their ancestors. ROCO and Musiqa will present short original contemporary, classic compositions as musical ofrendas. Inprint will also present original readings written in the tradition of making an offering during the *Día de los Muertos* celebrations. This event is a partnership between ROCO, Inprint, Musiqa and Lawndale Art Center.

### Papel Picado Workshop

Thursday, October 27, 2011: 6pm

Houston art educator and Lawndale supporter, Jean King, will lead a papel picado workshop as part of this year's *Día de los Muertos* celebration. The workshop is free and open to the public. Visitors will not only learn about the traditional art of Mexican paper cutting from one of the best, but will also get to create and take home their own unique perforated paper creation.



### Sugar Skull Workshop



Thursday, November 3, 2011: 6PM

In conjunction with our 23<sup>rd</sup> annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration, Lawndale Art Center is offering a sugar skull making workshop. The workshop is free and open to the public. Registrations is requested as space is limited. To register, please email [askus@lawndaleartcenter.org](mailto:askus@lawndaleartcenter.org). Bring a bag of sugar and add it to the mix or just drop in for a quick demonstration. All participants may take home one sugar skull and a printed recipe.

### Family Day Fiesta

Saturday, November 5, 2011: 12pm – 4pm

Lawndale's 24<sup>th</sup> annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration continues with a Saturday *fiesta* honoring participating teachers and students whose works of art can be viewed in the Cavnar and Mezzanine Galleries. Sugar skulls, *papel picado*, *papier mache* skeletons, *retablos*, altars and large-scale installations are just a few of the many projects on display. Guests will enjoy hot chocolate and *pan de muerto* and various children's activities, such as decorating sugar skulls, along with performances including *Mixteco Ballet Folklórico*.





## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What is Día de los Muertos?**

According to Mexican folk Catholicism, the celestial and terrestrial worlds come together only once a year—November 1 (for children) and November 2 (for adults). The dearly departed rejoin family and friends in a celebratory fashion. The living celebrate the return of the dead with elaborate home altars and graveside arrangements composed of the deceased's favorite foods and keepsakes. Festivities often include a picnic at the gravesite of a departed loved one.

### **Is Día de los Muertos like Halloween?**

No, Día de los Muertos is not a scary or gruesome event. Witches, monsters, goblins, and demons are ONLY associated with Halloween. In contrast, Día de los Muertos honors and celebrates the deceased. "It is a uniquely Indo-Hispanic custom that demonstrates a strong sense of love and respect for one's ancestors; celebrates the continuance of life, family relationships, community solidarity; and even finds humor after death—all positive concepts!" (Salinas, Bobbi. *Indo-Hispanic Folk Art Traditions II*. Michigan: Piñata Publications, 1988)

### **Does Día de los Muertos honor death?**

No, Día de los Muertos does not honor death, but the memory and the souls of the dearly departed.

### **Are *retablos* traditionally associated with Día de los Muertos?**

Día de los Muertos altars can contain a variety of items, such as marigolds, food, beverages, candles, photographs, and keepsakes. Although altars normally hold specific items, the composition of the altar is usually determined today by its caretakers. Images of saints can be included within this composition. *Retablos* are not specifically created for Día de los Muertos altars.

### **How can I participate in Lawndale's Día de los Muertos celebration?**

There are a variety of ways you can participate in our events:

- Your school group's artwork can be featured in one of our galleries during the months of October and November. Please contact Emily Link for more details: 713.528.5858 or [elink@lawndaleartcenter.org](mailto:elink@lawndaleartcenter.org)
- Introduce your students to the Día de los Muertos tradition by scheduling a tour with the Lawndale staff.
- Bring personal items for LAC's community altar.
- If you are an artist, you can submit a *retablo* for LAC's silent auction. With your submission, you will be given one admission ticket to our well-attended gala/silent auction. At least 50% of the proceeds made from the sale of your *retablo* help LAC present the work of artists from this region.
- Visit our newly updated Teacher's Resource Page: <http://lawndaleartcenter.wordpress.com/>



## SUGGESTED READINGS

- **General**

- Andrade, Mary. - [www.dayofthedead.com](http://www.dayofthedead.com)  
*Through the Eyes of the Soul, Day of the Dead in Mexico ~Michoacan~*.  
La Oferta Review Newspaper Inc, 1996.  
*Through the Eyes of the Soul, Day of the Dead in Mexico ~Oaxaca~*.  
La Oferta Review Newspaper Inc, 1996.  
*Through the Eyes of the Soul, Day of the Dead in Mexico ~ Mexico City, Mixquic  
& Morelos~*.  
La Oferta Review Newspaper Inc, 2000.  
*Through the Eyes of the Soul, Day of the Dead in Mexico ~ Puebla, Tlaxcala, San Luis Potosi, and  
Hidalgo~*.  
La Oferta Review Newspaper Inc, 2002.  
*Through the Eyes of the Soul, Day of the Dead in Mexico ~Yucatan~*.  
La Oferta Review Newspaper Inc, 2003.
- Azcentral. <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/>  
Carmichael, Elizabeth and Chloe Sayer. *The Skeleton at the Feast: The Day of the  
Dead in Mexico*. Austin: University of Texas, 1992.  
Sayer, Chloe. *The Mexican Day of the Dead*. Shambhala Publications, 1994.  
Teacher Suggested Activities. <http://www.inside-mexico.com/activities123.htm>

- **Art**

- Giffords, Gloria. *Mexican Folk Retablos*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico  
Press, 1998.  
Salinas, Bobbi. *Indo-Hispanic Folk Art Traditions II*. Michigan: Piñata Publications,  
1988  
Trenchard, Kathleen. *Mexican Paper Cutting: Simple Techniques for Creating  
Colorful Cut-Paper Projects*. Lark Books, 1998.

- **Food**

- Pan de Muerto. <http://www.globalgourmet.com/food/egg/egg1096/panmuert.html>  
Judy Walker, "Festival for Departed Souls begins with Food".  
AZCentral.com. <http://www.azcentral.com/ent/dead/articles/dead-food.html>

- **Altars**

- Salvo, Dana. *Home Altars of Mexico*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico  
Press, 1997

### Día de los Muertos Glossary

(Found in Salinas, Bobbi. *Indo-Hispanic Folk Art Traditions II*. Michigan: Piñata Publications, 1988)

- angelitas/angelitas** - Souls of little children; literally, "little angels."  
**animas** - Souls. Figures representing souls of the dead.  
**calaca** - Slang for skull or death.  
**calaveras** - Skull and/or satiric poetry or verses, and mock obituaries for this holiday.  
**fiesta** - Feast, entertainment, or festival.  
**flor de muerto** - Yellow marigold (cempasuchil); literally, "flower of the dead."  
**marimba** - A form of xylophone characterized by its carved-wood resonators. The  
Mexican *marimba* is also called a *zapotecano*.  
**ofrenda** - Altar or offering.  
**pan de muerto** - Sweet bread prepared for Día de los Muertos.  
**papel picado** - Cut tissue paper or foil banners; literally, "perforated paper."