

LAWNDALE ART CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lawndale Art Center's 27th Annual *Día de los Muertos* Events



Retablo & Student Exhibitions
October 20 – November 8, 2014

Papel Picado Workshop
October 21, 2014, 6PM

Gala & Retablo Silent Auction
October 23, 2014, 7 - 9 PM
Member and Sponsor Preview, 6 - 7 PM

Musical & Literary Ofrenda
October 28, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Family Day Fiesta
November 1, 2014, 12 - 4PM

Sugar Skull Class
November 4, 2014, 6 PM

Houston, TX - Lawndale Art Center presents the 27th Annual *Día de los Muertos* series of programs. Join us as we celebrate the art, music and folklife of Mexico through an exhibition of artist made retablos, student installations, workshops and performances. *Día de los Muertos* programs educate audiences and encourage dialogue about the rich Mexican-American heritage in our region, as well as promote cultural awareness of this celebration of family, life and community.

Central to Lawndale's celebration is an exhibition and auction of 250 artist made retablos. The [Gala & Retablo Silent Auction](#) is one of Lawndale's most popular parties and biggest fundraisers. In addition to the retablo exhibition, Lawndale works with 20 Houston area schools to present installations exploring *Día de los Muertos* themes and Mexican folk art practices in two galleries. Additional programs, including a [Family Day Fiesta](#), [Musical & Literary Ofrenda](#), [sugar skull class](#) and [papel picado workshop](#) are also presented during the 3 weeks the retablos are on view in the gallery.

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Retablo & Student Exhibitions

On view October 20 – November 8, 2014

In 1988, Lawndale Art Center presented its first annual *Día de los Muertos* exhibition of retablos: small art works inspired by the traditional Latin American devotional art form of the same name. Lawndale invites artists and the public to create contemporary interpretations of retablos on 8" x 10" pieces of sheet metal. The donated retablos are on view throughout Lawndale's *Día de los Muertos* programs and are auctioned at the Gala and Retablo Silent Auction. Proceeds from this popular fundraising event support Lawndale's free programming throughout the year.

Lawndale encourages teachers to educate their students about important aspects of Mexican culture and their related art practices and offers schools the opportunity to display their work in our Cavnar and Horton galleries. In past years, students have submitted projects such as sugar skulls, papel picado, papier-mâché skeletons, retablos, altars and other large-scale installations.

Papel Picado Workshop

Tuesday, October 21, 2014, 6 PM

Houston art educator and Lawndale supporter, Jean King, will lead a papel picado workshop free and open to the public as part of this year's *Día de los Muertos* celebration. 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.

Gala & Retablo Silent Auction

Friday, October 23, 2014, 7 - 9 PM

Member and Sponsor Preview, 6 – 7 PM

Event Chairs: Lane and Bob Schultz

Admission: \$65 / \$40 for Lawndale members

One of Lawndale's most popular parties and biggest fundraisers, this silent auction of small art works, created and donated by over 250 Texas artists, feature contemporary interpretations of retablos, a traditional, devotional art in Mexico. Guests will also enjoy exhibitions in the Cavnar and Horton galleries featuring works made by Houston school children, many in the folkart traditions still practiced in Mexico today.

For ticket information, call 713-528-5858.

Preview the exhibition Monday, October 20 - Wednesday, October 22 during normal gallery hours. The galleries will be closed Thursday, October 23, in preparation for the Gala & Retablo Silent Auction.

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Musical & Literary Ofrenda

Tuesday, October 28, 2014, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Performances begin at 6 PM

Join us for an evening of celebration and remembrance. During *Día de los Muertos*, families create ofrendas to remember and honor the memory of their ancestors. River Oaks Chamber Orchestra and Musiqa composers 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.

Family Day Fiesta

Saturday, November 1, 2014, 12 - 4PM

Admission: *Free*

Lawndale's 27th annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration continues with a Saturday *fiesta* for families and children honoring participating teachers and students whose artwork can be viewed in the Cavnar and Horton galleries. Enjoy refreshments and children's activities such as decorating sugar skulls, along with performances by Houston Grand Opera, Mixteco Ballet Folklorico and Secret Admirer Puppets.

Adult Sugar Skull Class

Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 6PM

\$25 per person

Advance registration is required as space is limited.

In conjunction with our 27th annual *Día de los Muertos* celebration, Lawndale Art Center is offering an Adult Sugar Skull Class led by artist Amber Eagle. Participants will learn how sugar skulls are made, and will decorate skulls with royal icing. All participants will take home their skull created in class, as well as a recipe and a sugar skull mold.

Amber Eagle is a former Lawndale Artist Studio Program participant, sculptor of sugar things in miniature and metal things made of semi-trucks. Eagle received her MFA from the California College of Arts and Crafts (1993) and her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design (1988). Eagle was a Core Fellow at the Glassell School of Art from 1993-1995. After completing her core fellowship in Houston she moved to Mexico for many years after having received a grant to study the art of Alfenique and Fiestas there.

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About *Día de los Muertos*:

Every year, according to Mexican folk tradition, the living honor the return of the souls of dead family and friends on November 1 and November 2. The first of November is reserved for the return of departed children and the second for adults. The living celebrate the return of the dead with elaborate home altars and graveside arrangements composed of the deceased's favorite foods and keepsakes. For more information on *Día de los Muertos* as celebrated in Mexico as well as at Lawndale Art Center, please visit our *Día de los Muertos* Resource page, <http://lawndaleartcenter.wordpress.com>.

About Lawndale Art Center:

Lawndale Art Center develops local contemporary artists and the audience for their art. Lawndale is dedicated to the presentation of contemporary art with an emphasis on work by Houston artists. Lawndale presents exhibitions, lectures and events, and offers an annual residency program to further the creative exchange of ideas among Houston's diverse artistic, cultural and student communities.

For images, visit our [Flickr page](#) for past *Día de los Muertos* events or email dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org.

For More Info:	www.lawndaleartcenter.org or askus@lawndaleartcenter.org
Gallery Hours:	Monday-Friday, 10-5; Saturday, 12-5; Closed Sunday
Admission:	Admission is free and open to the public
On View:	This exhibition will be on view October 20, 2014 through November 8, 2014.
Press Contact:	Dennis Nance, 713-528-5858, dnance@lawndaleartcenter.org

Programs at Lawndale are supported in part by The National Endowment for the Arts, Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The City of Houston through the Houston Museum District Association, The Texas Commission on the Arts, Houston Endowment, The Brown Foundation, Inc., The John R. Eckel, Jr. Foundation, The John P. McGovern Foundation, The Joan Hohlt and Roger Wich Foundation, Felvis Foundation/David R. Graham, John M. O'Quinn, Gracie and Bob Cavnar, Cecily E. Horton, Ann W. Harithas, Diana M. Hudson and Lee Kaplan, Julia and Luke Burke, Monica Rios and Colin Fulton, Bruce Eames, Samantha Schnee and Michael Hafner, Henke Law Firm LLP, Jenny and Mark Johnson, Gretchen and Andrew McFarland, Paula Murphy, Lia and David Rodi, Nicole and Joey Romano, Scott R. Sparvero, Mary Martha and Joel Staff, TeleFlex, United Airlines, Kinzelman Art Consulting, Number 4 High Performance Hair Care, Page, Poggenpohl Design Studio, and other contributors, memberships, benefit events and many volunteers.

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