

# City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Office of Cultural Affairs  
CITY OF DALLAS



Bath House  
CULTURAL CENTER

*Exhibition takes a warm, lively look at the celebration of the Day of the Dead*

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

## **The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) exhibition**

**October 17-November 14, 2009**

**Opening Reception with the Artists: Sunday, October 18, 2009 (5-7 PM)**

Free and open to the public

DALLAS – The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 23rd annual *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) art exhibition, October 17 – November 14, 2009. This exhibition includes 46 local, regional, national and international artists working in a variety of styles to celebrate, explore and honor people, things, and ideas that have “passed on.”

An opening reception with the artists will be held on Sunday, October 18, 2009 from 5 to 7 PM. Both the exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

### **Participating Artists:**

Chandra T. Armstead, Mary J. Baker, Dan Richard Barber, Betty Bucher, Billy Bucher, Judy Buckner, Kristine Byars, Paul Carranza, Jim Clement, Chris Cole, Angi Cure, Kathleen Donovan, Dan Dudley, Lori Dudley, Jacque Forsher, Miranda DaVolt, Frances Dezzany, Patricia Dillingham, Rosalinda Gómez, Franziska Gonzalez, Bryan Gooding, Sylvia Houghland, Alex Hulsey, Cindy Kelley, Ellie Ivanova, Sandra Lethem Yeo, Victoria Lewelling, Linda López, Darrell Madis, Antoaneta Melnikova-Hillman, Barbara Norris, Cap Pannell, Erin Nicole Parisi, Marilyn Parrish, David Perkins, Robert W. Ritchey, Brenda Robson, Meagan Robson, Kate Schatz, Michael Scogin, Russ Sharek, Terry K. Smith, Arthur Stephens, Christina L. Walker, Patricia Wass, and Kathy Windrow.

### **About the Exhibition:**

The Bath House Cultural Center has witnessed an exciting evolution of its annual Día de los Muertos exhibition throughout the 23 years of the show’s existence. In its early years, the exhibition was known primarily as a collection of traditional Mexican Day of the Dead altars created by Dallas Latino artists. The themes, stylistic approach, and the cultural background of the participating artists in this event, however, has rapidly been transformed in recent years by the inclusion of a much wider selection of artworks, which, in addition to the altars, contribute to the popular appeal and enjoyment of the exhibition

More and more artists (Latino or otherwise) have embraced the Day of the Dead tradition in recent years as they see the tremendous potential of the show's theme for artistic creation.

This year's show includes artworks as diverse as a mixed media print by Patricia Dillingham who explores the strong afterlife stories and traditions that are part of her Irish heritage. In her image, Ms. Dillingham superimposes images of her ancestors on a photograph she took in Ireland in honor of *Samhain*, an ancient Celtic celebration of the dead. Although the piece is not in direct relevance with the traditional Día de los Muertos, and is much quieter and ethereal than most artwork associated with the holiday, the artist thought that her artwork could be a gentle reminder that Mexico is joined by many other nations in having a ritualized relationship with those who have passed on.

Another fascinating piece in the show is a large traditional altar by artist and Eastfield College professor, Kathy Windrow, which was created in the style of *Altars Oaxaqueños* (ancient altarpieces from the southern Mexican state of Oaxaca). A fun addition to the exhibition is a Day of the Dead art car, a 1998 Saturn SL car that the artist Franziska Gonzalez will drive from Austin to Dallas to be a part of the celebration during the opening reception on October 18.

Enrique Fernández Cervantes, visual arts coordinator/curator of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, and Jose Vargas, visual artist and independent curator, curated this exhibition.

#### **The tradition of the Day of the Dead:**

During the traditional Day of the Dead holiday, people assemble elaborate altars in their homes to commemorate those who have died, filled with objects that provided pleasure to the departed person. Because of this warm social environment, the colorful setting, and the abundance of food, drink and good company, this holiday commemorating the dead has pleasant rather than scary or sad overtones.

According to an ancient Mexican tradition, every year the spirit of the dead come back to visit with their families. This happens on All Saints Day (November 1) and on the Day of the Dead (November 2). Cemeteries are cleaned and decorated with flowers and elaborate altars with offerings of food and cherished items of the deceased are built in peoples' homes to welcome the returning spirits. Although this tradition has its origins in Mexico, people of many cultures, races and backgrounds embrace the celebration. Life and death are universal concepts that everyone can explore.

Please visit [www.bathhousecultural.com](http://www.bathhousecultural.com) for more information. To preview selected art pieces from the exhibition, please visit the Bath House Cultural Center's Photo Gallery at <http://www.dallasculture.org/bathHouseCultureCenter/photos.asp>.

#### **Press Photographs:**

To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of the exhibitions, please visit the online press room at <http://www.dallaspublicart.info/bhccpress.cfm>

Publication of photographs must contain the credit line provided on the webpage. Photographs may only be used for promotional, educational, or non-commercial purposes.

**The Bath House Cultural Center** is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The center is dedicated to fostering the growth, development and quality of multi-cultural arts within the City of Dallas. The center emphasizes innovating visual and performing arts as well as other multi-discipline events throughout the year. Funding for the Bath House Cultural Center is provided by the City of Dallas, with additional support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

**LOCATION AND HOURS:**

The Bath House Cultural Center is located on the eastern shore of White Rock Lake at the end of Northcliff Dr. off of Buckner Blvd. at **521 E. Lawther, Dallas, TX 75218**. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM. The center is open until 10:00 PM on nights with theatre performances. For general information about cultural programs at the Bath House Cultural Center, please call (214) 670-8749 or visit the center's website at <http://www.bathhousecultural.com/>

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