

City of Dallas News Release

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City of Dallas

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Office of Cultural Affairs
CITY OF DALLAS



Bath House
CULTURAL CENTER

Bath House Cultural Center celebrates twenty-five years of showcasing lively Day of the Dead art

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

25th Annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) exhibition

October 15-November 12, 2011

Opening Reception with the Artist: Sunday, October 16, 2011 (5-7 PM)

Free and open to the public

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center celebrates the 25th anniversary of its popular Día de los Muertos art exhibition from October 15 to November 12, 2011. This lively eclectic exhibition features 59 local and regional artists working in traditional and contemporary 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 16, 2011 from 5 to 7 PM. The public is invited to wear their favorite Day of the Day costume to the reception. Both the exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

About the Exhibition:

In 1986, the tradition of the Day of the Dead was introduced for the first time to the cultural life of the Bath House Cultural Center when Teatro Dallas produced a play called *Johnny Tenorio*. The play was inspired by Jose Zorilla’s *Don Juan Tenorio*, which is the longest-running play in Spain and Mexico and is traditionally staged every year during the Day of the Dead. In addition to the staged production, Teatro Dallas also coordinated a gallery exhibition that included traditional Mexican Day of the Dead altars with the purpose of creating a deeper awareness of the social and artistic significance of the celebration.

Twenty-five years later, the Bath House show continues to commemorate the traditional holiday. A notorious difference between the early exhibitions, which were mostly composed of altarpieces by Latino artists, and the shows from the last fifteen years is the inclusion of more contemporary styles and media.

In the 25th anniversary of the exhibition, 59 artists were inspired by the ceremonies of honor, symbols of remembrance, and expressions of joy that are closely associated with the Mexican celebration. The inclusion of traditional Día de los Muertos altarpieces alongside contemporary artwork in a variety of media is evidence that this show, albeit rooted in the syncretistic Pre-Columbian and Catholic tradition of All Saints Day, has inspired artists of all backgrounds and cultures, who have in turn made the aesthetics of the tradition part of their creative sensibility.

Participating Artists:

Lori Bandi, Rita Barnard, Sal Barron, Maria Dolores Benitez, Angie Bolling, Ariel Bowman, Eunice Bridges, Kristine Byars, Jan Byron, Paul Carranza, Gabrielle Castañeda-Pruitt, Patricia Curry, Cynthia M. Daniel, Sheryl David, Dan Dudley, Lori Dudley, Angelia Ford, Linda Ford, Jacque Forsher, Rachel Forti, Pastor Garcia, April Greenlee, Vera Guillen, Rebecca Guy, Jenny Keller, Trent Koym, KeLaine Kvale, Lee A. Lage, Joanna LaGrone-Headrick, Barbara Lee, Eli Lorenz, Leticia Magaña, Melodee Martin Ramirez, Lori McCracken, Cyndi McDonnell, Denise Merlick, Karen Merten, William Messimer, Sharon Neel-Bagley, Melia Newman, Jan Partin, Kelly Pevehouse, Taylor Pierre Bryant, Marie Pugh, Brenda Robson, Wayne Rodney, Alfredo Rodriguez, Johanna Roffino-Hulsey, Lowell Sargeant, Shakti Sarkin, Paula Selzer, Linda Stokes, Ashley Thames Brown, Diane Torres, Mary Ann Vaca-Lambert, Jose Vargas, Martha Watson, Melissa Wertz, and Kathy Windrow.

Enrique Fernández Cervantes, Visual Arts Coordinator and Curator of Exhibitions of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Center, has curated this exhibition since 1999.

Please visit www.bathhousecultural.com for more information and to preview selected art pieces from the exhibition in the Photo Gallery.

Press Photographs:

To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit the online Press Room at <http://enriquefernandezcervantes.com/bhccpress/>

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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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