



# CITY OF DALLAS

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October 3, 2018, 2018

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**Bath House**  
CULTURAL CENTER



**Office of Cultural Affairs**  
CITY OF DALLAS

*Poetry is used as a powerful tool of expression in new Day of the Dead exhibition at the Bath House Cultural Center*

The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 32nd annual

## **Día de los Muertos: Memories Written in Verse**

**Curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes**

**October 13-November 10, 2018**

**Reception:** Sunday, October 14, 2018 (5-7 PM)

Featuring Andean music by Jacco Velarde

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 32nd annual *Día de los Muertos: Memories Written in Verse* exhibition. The show runs from October 13 to November 10, 2018. A reception will be held on Sunday, October 14, 2018, from 5 to 7 PM, featuring live Andean music by Jacco Velarde. The exhibition, reception, and all other events related to this program are free and open to the public.

*Día de los Muertos: Memories Written in Verse* is an exhibition that celebrates the tradition of the Day of the Dead and highlights the literary side of the holiday. The show features Day of the Dead altars and visual art pieces in a variety of media that include or are accompanied by poems.

The celebration of the Day of the Dead has always encouraged the creation of many art forms, including the literary arts. A common event during the annual festivities is the presentation of art and staged works that are inspired by writings that investigate the concept of life and death. For example, the poetic play *Don Juan Tenorio*, in which the death of the main character plays a central role, is performed across Spain and some Latin American countries every year on All Saint's Day. *Don Juan Tenorio* and other morality plays, religious songs, and comedic writings related to the Day of the Dead have inspired visual artists for many years.

Another example of the literary side of the Day of the Dead is the traditional *calaveras literarias* (skull poems), which are whimsical illustrations containing simple forms of poetry that are written to honor, celebrate, or sometimes satirize dead or living people during the holiday. Because poetry is often seen as a genre of literature that gives special emphasis on the expression of feelings, its inclusion in the celebration of the Day of the Dead is a natural fit.

The celebration of the Dia de los Muertos is rooted in the syncretistic Pre-Columbian and Catholic tradition of All Saints Day. According to the ancient Mexican tradition, every year the spirits of the dead come back to visit with their families. This occasion happens on All Saints Day (Nov 1) and on the Day of the Dead (Nov 2). During the celebration, cemeteries are cleaned and decorated with flowers and elaborate altars with offerings to the dead are built in the homes to welcome back each family's departed souls. Large feasts of favorite foods are prepared. Special gifts—items of which the dead person was fond, or which might be needed for the next life—are also placed at the altar. This tradition sustains the conviction that life and death are inseparable. Those who embrace this attitude live intensely for the moment because they recognize that there is a final end to life.

The exhibition features artwork by Karen Aguilar, Chandra and Ronald Armstead, Rita Barnard, Katherine Baronet, Kim Bene, Elizabeth Bentley, Amy Boltrushek, Molly Boyd, Kim Carothers, Vicki Charlotta, Melissa Chavez, Verona Chen, Patricia Curry, Andrea Davis, Mary Catherine Davis, Dan Dudley, Pamela Flores, Jacque Forsher, Michael Galgan, Dolores Godinez and Friends, Linda Goodwin, Rebecca Guy, Ericka Hagan, Juan J. Hernandez, Chad Hines, Amy Jenkins, Duane Johnson, Shelley Kommers, Keith Krempl, Ana Larranaga, Cindy Lemmon, Héctor Loera, Linda López, Barbara Mabli, Jackie MacLelland, Jas Mardis, Cyndi McDonnell, Michael McKenzie, Patricia McMillan, Nancy Merrill, Michael Miller, Jan Partin, Naldo Plata, Christopher Rahmeh, Ethel Betsaida Ramos Torres, Gail Roberts, Karen Robinson, Maria Ruenes, Mónica Santaella Valdivia, Helen Seebold, Maria Valentina Sheets, Heather Shoulders, Tanya Tewell, Wendy Tigchelaar, Jessica Trevizo, Mary Ann Turner, Lisa Vollrath, Lizeth Wallace, Utopia Weiner, Lori Morrell Whitaker, M.E. Wilcox, and Sandra Yeo.

Enrique Fernández Cervantes, Curator of Exhibitions for the Bath House Cultural Center and the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs, has curated the Día de los Muertos show since 1999.

**Press Photographs:** To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit the online Press Room at <http://www.bathhousemedia.com>. Photographs may only be used for promotional, educational, or non-commercial purposes.

**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/>

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.

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