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26th Annual Día de Los Muertos Celebration at SBMA

Sunday, October 25, 1 – 4 pm

October 1, 2015 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) presents a free family day in celebration of ***Día de los Muertos on Sunday, October 25, from 1 to 4 pm***, in the Museum's back plaza, State Street terrace, Family Resource Center, and galleries. For the 26th year, the Museum honors the Mexican tradition of remembering the dead with a variety of family festivities including altar displays, art activities, live music, dance performances, an interactive altar installation by Los Angeles-based Art Division and companion activity designed by the Museum's Teen Internship Program, and traditional Mexican refreshments. ***Admission to the family event and to the Museum is free.***



Inspired by the Día de los Muertos traditions and works of art currently on view in the Museum galleries, the event's art activities include mini-altars, using details of images from the ***Looking In, Looking Out: Latin American Photography*** exhibition, skeleton landscape postcards, and paper flower still lifes, as well as traditional festival skull charms. In the Family Resource Center, the public is invited to remember friends and family by adding to the community altar and to view a special installation by artists from Art Division Youth Arts Program, a professional training program for underserved young adults who show genuine commitment and passion for the visual arts. ***Conjunto Jardin, Mariachi Sol Huasteco***, and ***Folkloric Dance Group Quetzalcoatl*** return with musical and dance performances throughout the day.

Image: Mario Algaze, ***Curichal, Costa Rica***, 1987. Gelatin silver print. SBMA, Museum purchase with funds provided by Friends of Photographic Art.
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The Day of the Dead is traditionally celebrated by creating altars or "ofrendas" (offerings) that include portraits, personal goods, clothing, favorite foods, and possessions of the deceased family member. This is an important social ritual that symbolizes the cycle of life and death that is human existence. SBMA's display of altars are created by various partner schools and community organizations including ***La Cuesta Continuation High School, Santa Barbara Public Library Eastside Branch, Montecito Union School***, the ***Carpinteria Library Homework Center***, and ***Marymount School of Santa Barbara***, students enrolled in the Museum's

after-school outreach programs, including ***Homework/Artwork After-School; Art After School*** in collaboration with the Police Activities League, and ***A-OK After School Education and Safety Programs*** at Santa Barbara Community Academy; and ***Brandon Elementary, El Camino Elementary, and Aliso Elementary***, recipients of the Museums' in-classroom outreach program ArtReach. Each group has incorporated traditional symbols and iconography to offer thanks to departed family, friends, or artists in the Museum's collection.

Limited edition t-shirts and tote bags with original, stenciled designs created by ***La Cuesta Continuation High School*** student artists are also on sale as part of the celebration. The sale proceeds go toward the La Cuesta Art Scholarship, which will be awarded to a graduating senior at the 2016 commencement. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art and La Cuesta Continuation High School have been collaborating since 2007, providing opportunities for students to explore forms of self-expression through art and language. Previous projects have been exhibited in the Museum Store window and SBMA elevator, and at the Ridley-Tree Education Center at McCormick House and at a number of Free Family Days.

Free Family Guides are available at the Visitor Services desks in both English and Spanish.

Free Family Days and all other Family Programs are made possible through the generosity of the Schlosser Family Trust, and Connie Frank and Evan C. Thompson. Additional support for Dia de los Muertos Free Family Day is provided by Wells Fargo.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.
Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Chase Free Thursday Evenings 5 – 8 pm
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