



CITY OF DALLAS

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Bath House
CULTURAL CENTER



Office of Cultural Affairs
CITY OF DALLAS

Visual artists explore the monarch butterfly and marigold flower as symbols of the Day of the Dead

The Bath House Cultural Center presents the 31st annual

Día de los Muertos: The Path of Winged Souls

October 14-November 11, 2017

Reception: Sunday, October 15, 2017 (5-7 PM)
Featuring live Andean music by Jacco Velarde

DALLAS - The Bath House Cultural Center presents *Día de los Muertos: The Path of Winged Souls*, an eclectic exhibition that includes traditional and contemporary works of art that celebrate the Day of the Dead. This annual show features local, national, and international artists and runs from October 14 to November 11, 2017. A reception with the artist will be held on Sunday, October 15, 2017, from 5 to 7 PM, featuring live music by Jacco Velarde. The exhibition, reception, and all other events related to this program are free and open to the public.

For years, the celebration of the Day of the Dead has inspired many artists to create artwork that is moving, awe-inspiring, and diverse. Given the multifaceted aspects of the Day of the Dead, artists have always had the opportunity to explore the celebration from multiple perspectives. The Bath House Cultural Center applauds the artists who, over the years, have created a richly eclectic collection of art for its annual exhibition. In recent shows, however, the center has directed artist to turn their focus to a particular

component of the ancient Mexican Día de los Muertos tradition. This thematic emphasis not only gives the public a chance to appreciate historically accurate elements of the celebration that are not explored as frequently, but also enables artists to draw inspiration from sources that they had possibly not considered in the past.

In 2017, the central focus of the Día de los Muertos exhibition is Day of the Dead-oriented artwork that prominently features monarch butterflies and marigold flowers (known in Mexico as the Flowers of the Dead or cempazuchitl).

A belief held by people from ancient Mesoamerican cultures (and some people today) is that, during the celebrations of the Day of the Dead, the spirits of the departed are given permission to return to the world of the living to visit their families. Some people also think that the returning spirits require assistance to find their way home as the passage from the world of the dead to our world might be filled with darkness. To aid the spirits, according to the tradition, homes and altars are marked with the brightly colored petals of marigold flowers to create a path of light that shows the departed souls the way to their loved ones.

The monarch butterflies, migrating back in large numbers to Mexico during the festivities of the Day of the Dead, have a symbolic significance as well because they are perceived as the spirits of returning loved ones making their way back home. Because of their deep-rooted association with the honoring of the dead, the monarch butterflies and the flowers of the dead are cherished and perceived with admiration in many parts of Mexico and Latin America.

The exhibition features artwork by Artwork by **Mark Abildgaard, Karen Albanese Campbell, Chandra Armstead, Hector Avila, Eva Azul, Rita Barnard, Kim Bene, Dan Birlew, David Blow, Angie Bolling, Amy Branch-Lambert, Lori Brennan, Carolanne Brosious, Kim Carothers, Jennifer Clements, Janae Corrado, Cynthia Daniel, Dan Dudley, Stephen Evans, Angie Flanagan, Linda Marie Ford, Jacque Forsher, Merry Fuhrer, Pastor García, Zara Garza, Ann Gaspari, Brandy González, Tammy Gore, Rebecca Guy, Ellen Hawkins, Melissa Hayes, Justin Higgs, Duane Johnson, Stephen Landis, Micaela Layman, Cindy Lemmon, Heidi Lesur, Linda López, Karlyssa Lussier, Cyndi McDonnell, Marcela Mihaloglou, Deb Miller, Margaret Miller, Michael Miller, Jefferson Muncy, Jan Partin, Sherie Pierce, Jorge Rey, Jennifer Rodriguez, Roberto Romero, Caren Sandoval, Lowell Sargeant, Evan Sartin, Maysa Sem, Anjela Sevilla, Jude Simon, Sammy Thomason, William Toliver, Lisa Vollrath, Danielle Wethington, ME Wilcox, Becky Wilkes, and Kelly Witte.**

Enrique Fernández Cervantes, Curator of Exhibitions of 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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