



Bath House
CULTURAL CENTER

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PRESS RELEASE

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Jose Guadalupe Posada's Catrina and women are the inspiration for new Day of the Dead exhibition at the Bath House Cultural Center

The Bath House Cultural Center presents

Día de los Muertos: Catrina and Other Memorable Ladies

Curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes

October 12-November 16, 2019

Reception with the Artists: Sunday October 13, 2019 (5-7 PM)

The Bath House Cultural Center presents “Día de los Muertos: Catrina and Other Memorable Ladies,” a Day of the Dead-inspired art exhibition, from October 12 to November 16, 2019. A reception with the artists will be held on Sunday, October 13, 2019, from 5 to 7 PM. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

The Bath House Cultural Center’s 33rd Annual Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) art exhibition features Day of the Dead visual art and altars in a variety of media created by local, national and international artists. The works featured in the 2019 Día de los Muertos exhibition are inspired by the Day of the Dead character, *Catrina*, and by the legacy of other prominent women.

Catrina has been an iconic symbol of the Day of the Dead celebration for many years. The character has been seen by people in many different ways throughout her interesting evolution. Catrina first came to life on an etching that was created around 1910 by printmaker José Guadalupe Posada, a highly prominent and respected artist from Mexico. Catrina, a genuine grande dame of death, is one of various comical illustrations of skeletons that were made famous by Posada. On his print, originally titled “La Calavera Garbancera,” Catrina is depicted as an lavishly elegant woman who wears formal attire with much pride and exuberance.

Although Catrina is now perceived as a cheerful personification of the Day of the Dead, she was originally created as a piece of political satire that mocked people of Mexico who, in the beginning of the 20th century, showed an obsession with European materialism and style and disregarded their own indigenous culture. The word *garbancera* from the title of Posada’s Catrina print refers to the name given to indigenous and mestizo people from Mexico, in the time of the Spanish colonization, who began to yield to Spanish tastes in fashion, language, and food (including the garbanzo bean). The term was meant to be derogative as other native people considered this cultural assimilation a breach of trust and a betrayal of their own culture. Catrina later became a symbol of the contrasts between the upper and lower classes of Mexico. In more modern times, however, we see Catrina as a beloved image of the Day of the Dead celebration that represents not only the gleeful nature of the festivity, but also the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

The artists featured in this show include Mirtha Aertker, Karen E. Aguilar, Michelle Akers, Roxanne M. Anderson, Barbara M. Armstrong, Brandin Barón, Jose G. Barriga, Amy Boltrushek, Melanie S. Campbell-Carter, Kathy Chambers, Vicki Charlotta, Rebecca Collins, Oscar Contreras, Lisa Crook, Raúl Cruz, Judy Culbertson, Enrique De Altamirano, Gail M. Delger, Kathleen B. Donovan, Katrina Doran, Dan and Lori Dudley, Brett L. Dyer, Jen Faits Mulder, Julie Flandorfer, Jacque Forsher, Pastor García, Karla G. Gaspar, Nick Glenn, Juan J. Hernández, Joan Hudson, Dawnie Jackson, Duane Johnson, Kristi Kay, Ruth A. Keitz, Mitzi King, Debra Kruse, Bonnie Lankford, Sandra Lara, Nancy CH Lawrence, Jocelyn V. Lechuga, Cindy Lemmon, Hector Loera, Laurence I. López, Linda López, Elizabeth Mahy, Kelsey M. McAfee, Cynthia McDonnell, Brenda McKinney, Patricia McMillan, Marcela Mihaloglou, Deb and Chuck Miller, Margo Miller, Michael R. Miller, Kelly B. Morris, Eva Peña, Kristen N. Penrod, Alejandra P. Ramos, Jane Robbins, Gail Roberts, Jennifer Rodriguez, María C. Ruenes, Evan Sartin, Diana Scott, Daniel P. Sellers, Pam J. Smith, Suzie Standridge, Wendy L. Tigchelaar, TRONJA, Joyce Ward, ME Wilcox, and Becky Winslow.

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

Press Photographs: To download press releases and 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/>

About the Center: The Bath House Cultural Center is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Arts and Culture. 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.

The Bath House Cultural Center is a member of the Dallas Art Dealers Association.

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