



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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El Camino College Art Gallery to Present
Recuerdos Vividos: Altars and Images Celebrating El Día de los Muertos

The El Camino College Art Gallery will present *Recuerdos Vividos: Altars and Images Celebrating El Día de los Muertos* through November 4. A lecture by Raoul De la Sota is set for 1 p.m. October 18 in Art Room 103. The El Camino College Art Gallery is located on campus, 16007 Crenshaw Boulevard, near Torrance. The exhibit's curator is Susanna Meiers.

The ECC Art Gallery celebrates Day of the Dead with *Recuerdos Vividos*, presenting altars and artworks by 29 artists from Southern California, honoring loved ones who have passed away, as well as images that address broader contemporary issues. In addition to traditional altar making, this exhibition includes installation, painting, printmaking, collage, mosaic work, sculpture, photography and folk art works in clay, sugar and paper mache.

The artworks and altars in ***Recuerdos Vividos*** are sometimes highly personal, incorporating photographs, mementos, flowers, letters, candles and offerings of food, welcoming the departed souls to partake of this festivity in their honor. At times these altars and artworks extend to include famous people, anonymous victims of tragedy and violence, beloved pets, as well as altars and images that focus on historical, social or environmental issues.

The modern observance of the holiday *El Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), stems from both pre-Hispanic and Catholic influences. This major Mexican holiday, which falls on All Souls Day(s), November 1 and 2, is a time of remembrance, reflection and celebration, both of life and the hereafter. While commemorating and connecting with the departed, much artwork that has emerged from this tradition is simultaneously festive and embracing of images of death.

The artists featured in the show include:

- **Edith Abeyta** presents a mixed media installation with large-scale silhouette of a tree festooned with hanging skulls
- **Rita Almanza** shows a personal altar dedicated to her mother, with flowers, sunny window, memorabilia and photographs
- **Donna Angers** shows an acrylic painting of a pieta with Michael Jackson in the arms of the Virgin Mary
- **Mary Clark-Camargo** shows large-scale mosaic decorated skulls

- **Jarno De Bar** displays delicate drawing with personal images of spirit life in watercolor and ink
- **Matt De Haven** presents an altar dedicated to ancient Irish warrior queen, Morrigan in mixed media with photos and feathers
- **Raoul De la Sota** exhibits a painting depicting the symbolic genesis of the Day of the Dead in addition to two small mixed media homages dedicated to the departed
- **Lawrence R. Garcia** exhibits mixed media installation with photographic image of self crucified in addition to a mixed media urn/homage to his deceased father
- **Daniel Gonzalez** lineout print in black and white of traditional Catarina figure
- **Betsy Lohrer Hall** small mixed media collage dedicated to a departed friend
- **Richard Hall** lyrical black and white drawings of skeletons
- **Amy Inouye** shows an ancient fossil acting as conduit in connecting to the departed – touchstone that also salutes the artist's Japanese heritage
- **Joyce Kohl's** massive stair-stepped adobe and steel altar is an homage to her deceased husband, Bill Morse
- **Patricia Krebs** large-scale painting depicts the folly and spoils of war
- **Mavis Leahy** shows whimsical embroidered drawings of skeletal figures in context
- **Peter Liashkov** exhibits elegant collage done in mixed media with antique postcard as ground
- **Pola Lopez** shows mixed media collage/small scale
- **Poli Marichal and Marianne Sadowski** present complex black and white linocut prints of roiling landscapes with skeletal figures, and, in collaboration with **Victor Rosas**, the three artists present mixed media installation dedicated to the children of Somalia
- **Rennie Rau Marquez** presents fanciful and humorous Day of the Dead images in mixed media
- **Daniel F. Martinez** presents a personal altar dedicated to his mother, which includes photos, memorabilia, flowers, candles and food
- **Kathy Mas-Gallegos** shows personal homage to deceased family members, done in mixed media
- **Miguel Angel Murillo** shows mixed media altar/construction with Barbie Dolls and pencils, homage to the abuse of women in Latin America
- **Robert Palacios** shows large-scale painting of traditional skeletal Day of the Dead imagery
- **Beth Peterson** heroic scale street puppets of Day of the Dead skeletons
- **Gloria Plascencia** photographs of costumed individuals celebrating Day of the Dead
- **Stuart Rapeport** shows mixed media construction honoring a departed pet dog
- **Laughing Horse Robinson** displays Kawaiisu tribal drums and Ghost Dance ceremonial clothing
- **Katrin Wiese** shows small-scale oil painting depicting her own dark whimsy of death readying a soul for departure

Also featured is Folk Art from Mexico loaned by the Folk Tree in Pasadena.

The El Camino College Art Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays and from noon to 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays. For more information, call Susanna Meiers at 310-660-3010. Admission to the El Camino College Art Gallery and gallery events is free. On-campus parking is \$2.

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