



# DÍA DE MUERTOS

## Estampas de Vida

Printmaking and Altars Exhibition

# CALL FOR ENTRIES

BATH HOUSE CULTURAL CENTER

**Entries Deadline:** Monday, September 19, 2022

Applications close at 11:59 PM, Central Time

All entries must be submitted online at <https://dallasoac.awardsplatform.com>

An online version of this prospectus can be found at <https://wp.me/P8MH1a-2GI>

Read this prospectus entirely and carefully before submitting entries.

The Bath House Cultural Center will present its 36<sup>th</sup> annual Day of the Dead exhibition in 2022. The show, titled *Día de Muertos: Estampas de Vida* (Day of the Dead: Prints of Life), will include art of multiple media, prints and altar installations by local, regional and national artists. This exhibition will be curated by Enrique Fernández Cervantes.

## ELIGIBILITY

**This call is open to all artists who live in the United States.** Art that has been exhibited in previous Día de Muertos exhibitions at the Bath House will not be accepted. Entries that do not meet submission requirements will not be considered and will be disqualified

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

**The exhibition will feature artwork in all media; however, there will be a special emphasis placed on the art of traditional printmaking,** an art medium that has been closely linked to the festivity—especially because of its prominence and wide use by Day of the Dead artists like José Guadalupe Posada, Leopoldo Méndez, Alberto Beltrán, Manuel Manilla, and various members of the esteemed *Taller de la Gráfica Popular* (People's Print Workshop) from Mexico.

## What kind of art are we looking for?

The exhibition will display artwork that explores themes connected to the celebration of the Day of the Dead. Art in all media will be reviewed. Artists who are interested in presenting printmaking pieces should submit hand-pulled prints created through traditional printmaking techniques. These techniques may include woodcut, linocut, etching, engraving, lithography, collagraph, aquatint, monotype, screen printing, and any other art form in which ink is moved from one surface to another by the artists.

The exhibition will also feature altars and ofrendas created by local artists to honor their departed relatives or friends.

Although we understand that some of the works of art (particularly the altars) may include solemn themes, we recommend that artists keep the idea of festivity in mind while creating their entries.

## MEDIA

Art in all media will be considered. All art must be framed, wired, and suitable for hanging/displaying.

There are no restrictions on the size of the artwork but bear in mind that artists are responsible for the transportation of their works and their prompt removal after the show closes.

Altar installations must be coordinated with the curator. Because of insurance restrictions, the use of irreplaceable items in altars is discouraged. Candles can be used for display only and must not be lit. Although acceptable, the use of perishable items, such as food and flowers is also discouraged.

## SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

An entry fee is not required. The curator will review photographs of completed artwork only and will select 40-60 pieces for the exhibition. Unfinished artwork will not be reviewed.

Except for altars (which are to be submitted via e-mail), all other entries must be submitted online at <https://dallasoac.awardsplatform.com>

Artists may submit a maximum of two works of art for the curator's consideration. The Bath House Cultural Center will not accept files submitted on CDs, removable memory sticks, or by e-mail.

## PROPOSING AN ALTAR

Artists who wish to build an altar must submit their proposals via e-mail and must adhere to the entries deadline. Please include a description explaining: **Who is the altar for? How large is the installation? What is the purpose of the altar, and how does it relate to the exhibition theme?** Attach photographs of the completed altar (if possible), or preliminary sketches of the structure and elements of the installation.

Space for altars is limited. Altars cannot exceed 50 inches in width and depth, but they can be up to 8 or 10 feet in height.

**Submit altar proposals no later than September 19 to [enrique.fernandez@dallas.gov](mailto:enrique.fernandez@dallas.gov)**

## PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR ARTWORK

Make sure that your images are sharp and that the quality and size of your files is adequate. Our entries platform can accept files that are up to 5MB in size.

Submit high resolution images. Unless your cell phone has a camera that takes high resolution images, we recommend that you use a regular camera or a scanner to capture your artwork. Remove your prints from their frame before photographing them. You may refer to the ***"Tips for Photographing Your Artwork"*** page at the end of this prospectus for more information.

## GALLERY AGREEMENT

The exhibition curator will make a final decision for the selection of entries for the show. The decision of the curator is final and indisputable.

Permission to photograph and reproduce accepted entries for promotional and educational purposes is considered granted unless otherwise indicated by the artist.

Submission of entries constitutes agreement to the conditions set forth in this prospectus and in the Gallery Policy for Exhibitions. View the policy at:

<https://oca-media.s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2021/07/exhibitionspolicy.pdf>

Printed copies of the policy may also be obtained from the Bath House upon request.

## SALES

Cultural Center employees are not allowed to accept payments from prospective art buyers, but they may choose to collect contact information from them and supply it to artists. Transactions for the purchase of artwork shall be directly between the purchaser and the artist or his/her official agent. The Friends of the Bath House Cultural Center would gladly accept a 15% voluntary donation on all art sold during the exhibition

## DELIVERY, LIABILITY, AND INSURANCE

Any accepted artwork that is delivered after the scheduled date of delivery will not be included in the exhibition. All artworks should be either shipped (at the artist's expense) or hand-delivered to and from the Bath House. The Bath House Cultural Center will not be responsible for damage, loss, or deterioration

of any work while in transit. All reasonable care will be given to each work of art once it is received.

At its discretion, the City of Dallas Office Arts and Culture will provide insurance on most works of art. At times, the City of Dallas may refuse to insure certain pieces of art. In such cases, the artist will be notified and, if the artist chooses to include her/his artwork in the show, despite of the lack of insurance coverage, the artist will be asked to sign a waiver releasing the gallery from any liability. The Bath House will not be responsible for art that is damaged while in the custody of the center because of defective hanging or installation mechanisms provided/installed by the artists. As an added precaution, artists have the option to purchase coverage separately from their own insurance providers.

## CALENDAR

**Entries deadline: Monday, September 19, 2022**

**Selection notification: Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022**

Posted online at 6 PM at

<https://bathhouse.dallasculture.org/notifications/>

The notification will include the names of the selected artists (including altar artists) and will be available after 6 PM. Artists are solely responsible for reviewing this list. The curator will not send acceptance notifications to each individual artist by phone, e-mail, or otherwise.

**In-person art deliveries: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 (4-7 PM).** Late deliveries will not be accepted.

**Art shipments:** Art shipments must arrive between **September 20-October 3, 2022.**

**Installation of altars:** Altar artists can start bringing their items to the gallery on October 4, but their

installations will not begin until **Saturday, October 8 (12-6 PM).**

**Show dates: October 15-November 5, 2022**

**Reception: Sunday, October 16, 2022 (5-7 PM)**

**Artwork pickup: Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2022 (3-7 PM)**

**Return of shipped artwork:** Artwork that comes from outside of DFW will be shipped back to the artists on the second week of December.

## DIA DE LOS MUERTOS TRADITION

According to an 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, many people clean and decorate cemeteries with flowers, and they build elaborate altars with offerings to the dead in their homes to welcome back each family's departed souls. The altars include food, special gifts, candles, flowers, and other commemorative personal items that were enjoyed and cherished by the person who is being honored.

The Day of the Dead 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 an end to life.

## Questions?

Please contact the exhibition curator, Enrique Fernández Cervantes at (214) 670-8723 or [enrique.fernandez@dallas.gov](mailto:enrique.fernandez@dallas.gov)



[www.bathhousecultural.com](http://www.bathhousecultural.com)

# Tips for Photographing Your Artwork



It might appear as though it is relatively easy for any artist to photograph his or her own artwork. However, if you don't have the photography and image editing skills, you may be putting yourself at a disadvantage when you submit artwork that has been poorly photographed to an art competition. There are many professional photographers who can offer their expertise in capturing your images in the best way possible. You may consider hiring a professional to photograph your art; but, if you wish to do the work yourself, make sure to read the following tips offered to you by the Bath House Cultural Center:

## 1. CAMERAS vs. MOBILE DEVICES

Although many modern smartphones and tablets are equipped with advanced cameras, we discourage artists from using this type of device to photograph their entries. Most digital cameras will take high-quality images if you use their maximum settings. Refer to your camera manual to learn how to select the largest file size and the finest picture quality possible. Submitting high-resolution images will ensure that the colors and details of your work will be viewed and reproduced well.

## 2. LIGHTING

**Artificial Lighting:** Choose a room where you can shine the light evenly on the artwork surface. Good lighting will produce colors and textures that are accurate. If you are using artificial light, set one light on each side of the artwork. The height of the bulbs should be the same as the height of the center of the art. The distance of the bulbs from the work of art should be the same on both sides. You must adjust the distance and angle of the bulbs depending on the artwork. It is not advisable to use on-camera flashes because they generally produce uneven results.

**Natural Lighting:** Photograph your art outdoors when it is cloudy or with an overcast sky.

This type of natural indirect light will produce excellent results.

## 3. CAMERA SUPPORT AND ANGLE

For better results, use a tripod to hold the camera steadily. Set your artwork up so that you can take the picture from its centermost point. Your photographs will show signs of distortion if your camera is placed at an angle that is higher or lower than the center of the artwork.

## 4. BACKGROUNDS

Make sure that you use a background with a solid color that contrasts well with your art. Remove the art from its frame (if applicable) before you photograph it. Make sure not to include anything distracting in the background of your images. Your artwork should be the only thing included in the picture. Foreign objects appearing in the background make the evaluation of a work of art difficult.

## 5. PHOTOGRAPHING 3D ART

Photograph your 3D art by capturing the most interesting angles of the piece. Adjust the light as you move around or rotate the artwork. Most competitions will accept multiple photographs of 3D art that show a variety of views.

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This document provides very basic tips to help you photograph your work. It is not intended to be a comprehensive photography guide to achieve professional-quality results. If you are interested in learning more techniques for photographing your artwork, make sure to refer to the many in-depth articles that are readily available for free on the Internet that are written by expert photographers.