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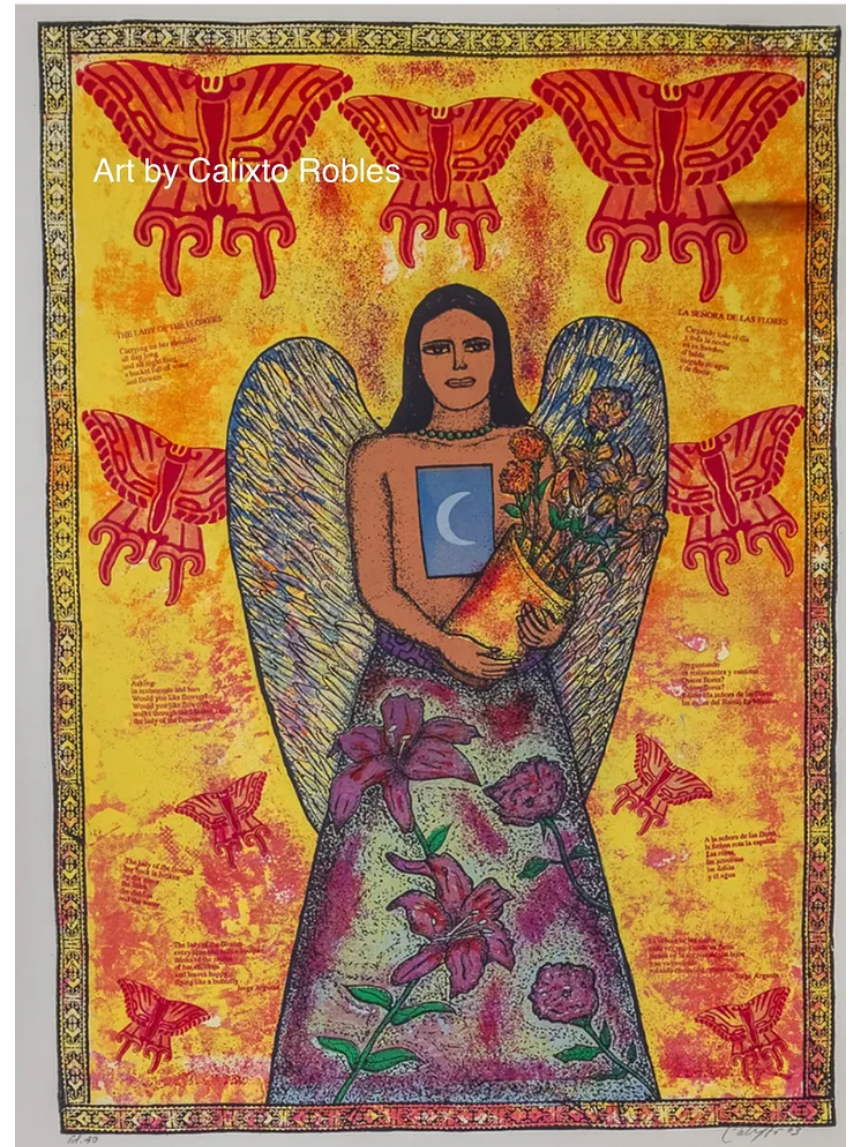


'Milagros & Memories' shines wondrously at Sausalito Center for The Arts



Jonathan P D Farrell · Follow

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While the debate of whether or not celebrating Halloween is wholesome, especially among fundamentalist people, the curators & staff at Sausalito Center For The Arts (SCA) consider this time of year as ideal because it ties in with the long-time honored “Dia de Los Muertos.”

This provides a special opportunity to share the voice, and the spirit of the contemporary Bay Area Mexican American culture & Latino artists. On Saturday October 28, SCA will host its very first fundraiser gala in conjunction with the current exhibit now on display entitled “*Milagros & Memories*” of which 17 Latin/Mesoamerican artists are highlighted.



Art by Juana Alicia Araiza

Over the centuries, 'Dia de Los Muertos got merged with Christianity and the celebration of "All Saints & All Souls, but for the Mexican people and much of ancient Mesoamerican tribes it was significant as well as sacred. As various scholars point out. Such as, professor emeritus [Lea Ramsdell of Towson University](#), Maryland noted. "Celebrating Day of the Dead means facing the fact that death is real and that although loved ones are no longer present, people (here now living) can remember them and are happy that their spirits have returned to be with them during the holiday."

Even with its uniquely Mesoamerican aspects, there is something deeply universal in the commemoration of 'Dia de Los Muertos' that almost everyone can relate to. While steeped in ancient traditions, as SCA executive director Shiva Pakdel points out. "Each artist's work is highly stylistic, rich with symbols and colors creating images that are visually stunning and contemporary."

Pakdel continued, "the 17 artists are some of the most notable contemporary Latin American (Mesoamerican) artists of the Mission District of San Francisco (and beyond.)"

From the 1960s onwards, [San Francisco's Mission District](#) and adjacent communities became a center of Latin American/Mesoamerican art, culture and socio-economic and political awareness. Be it about workers rights thru the activism of Cesar Chavez or [the dynamic evolution of mural art](#), the spirit and voice of mesoamerican people emerged and continues to resonate.

As [Precita Eyes Muralist Center](#) in the heart of the Mission District gives witness to, Dia de Los Muertos transcends to something much more. Precita Eyes founding director Susan Kelk Cervantes said of the SCA "Milagros & Memories" exhibit. "This group of 17 exhibiting artists are some of the most

important and legendary Latinx/Chicanx artists in the SF Bay Area who are the best in expressing the social, political and spiritual aspects of their cultural experience." "Beautiful!" She added.

Obviously very pleased and proud of the exhibit, Pakdel said of all the various expressions of art represented. It's a "gripping and highly symbolic art representing a complex and dynamic culture that pulls in elements from its historical Mexican, Latin, and indigenous roots, all presented with a modern twist."

The 17 artists featured at the "Milagros & Memories" exhibit are: Juana Alicia Araiza, Carmen Lomas Garza, Juan Fuentes, Michael Roman, Calixto Robles, Michael V. Rios, Emanuel Montoya, Emanuel Paniagua, Ester Hernandez, Ozono Tirso Araiza, Talavera Ballón, Isidoro Angeles, Ernesto Olmos, Vladimir Cuevas, Oscar Morales, Karina Ramirez-Cortez and Sol Navarrete.

As mentioned by [the Marin IJ](#), Chef David Neri will be serving a traditional Mexican menu for the gala-fundraiser event on Saturday, October 28. Located at 750 Bridgeway in Sausalito the fundraiser-gala begins at 6:00 PM. Live music will also be performed, for tickets and more information [visit the SCA website page](#).



'Milagros (which translates to 'miracles or wonders' in English) & Memories' exhibit at Sausalito Center for the Arts premiered this past October 13 and will continue until November 12.



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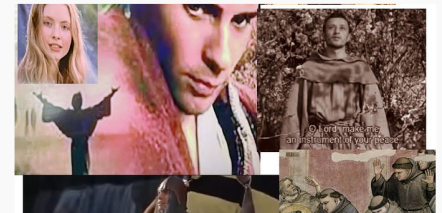
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