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## OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCES SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

**OMCA honors John Muir, pays tribute to loved ones in annual Days  
of the Dead exhibition, and remembers the 1991  
Oakland-Berkeley Firestorm**

*Oakland Museum of California's September/October  
programs offer something for everyone!*

This press release is available online at [museumca.org/pressroom](http://museumca.org/pressroom)

**(OAKLAND, CA)** September 7, 2011—The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) presents a dynamic line-up of programs this fall. From a special late-night **O Zone** event celebrating the eco-activism spirit of John Muir through music, performances, food, and a "Best John Muir Beard in the East Bay" contest to nature-inspired **Sunday family activities**, OMCA is all about discovery and adventure this season. For more information about OMCA's full offering of programs, events, and exhibitions, visit [museumca.org](http://museumca.org) or call 510-318-8400.

### **FAMILY PROGRAMS**

#### **OMCA FAMILY: Take Time for Adventure**

***Sunday, September 11, 12–3 p.m.***

Explore the *Walk in the Wild* exhibition full of John Muir's adventures and discoveries. Meet Rick Deutsch, "Mr. Half Dome," and catch his infectious enthusiasm for hiking Half Dome with your family. Presentation times are 12:30 and 2 p.m. (45 minutes). Book signings of *One Best Hike: Yosemite's Half Dome* by Rick Deutsch follow each presentation. Included with Museum admission.

#### **OMCA FAMILY: Adventure Up Close**

***Sunday, September 25, 12–3 p.m.***

Explore the John Muir exhibition and walk in the wild with "John Muir" as living-history actor Ranger Frank Helling brings Muir to life. Find out what life was like when Yosemite National Park was born and hear Muir's ideas through his own words. Drop into the Art Studio for do-it yourself art projects. All included with Museum admission.

**OMCA FAMILY: Gallery Walk + Drop-in Art*****Sunday, October 9, 12–3 p.m.***

Take a 45-minute family-friendly tour of the galleries and gardens—a perfect way for families to explore the Museum together. Drop into the Art Studio for do-it yourself art projects. All included with Museum admission.

**OMCA FAMILY: Memories*****Sunday, October 16, 12–3 p.m.***

October is the season for the Days of the Dead and making altars to remember family, friends, or pets. Get ideas from artists in the Art Studio, and see what you can make. Included with Museum admission.

**OMCA FAMILY: Tour Days of the Dead*****Sunday, October 30, 1 p.m.***

Take a Family Gallery Tour for the Days of the Dead. Make art in the Art Studio. Included with Museum admission.

**FILMS****OMCA FILM: *Child of Giants: My Journey with Maynard Dixon and Dorothea Lange******Friday, September 16, 7 p.m.***

Join filmmaker Tom Ropelewski and members of the Dixon/Lange family for a special screening of *Child of Giants: My Journey with Maynard Dixon and Dorothea Lange*. In this emotional story of a son placed in foster homes while his parents followed their artistic callings, the film shows the ultimate toll that art had on this family's life. Included with Museum admission. Presented in partnership with KQED. OMCA is open Fridays until 9 p.m.

**OMCA FILM: Home Movie Day 2011*****Saturday, October 15, 1–5 p.m.***

Join this annual, worldwide celebration of amateur films, film conservation, and home movies—held for the first time at OMCA! See screenings of films submitted by the public as well as films from the collection of the African American Museum and Library at Oakland (AAMLO)—accompanied by live music by jazz musician Marcus Shelby. Included with Museum admission.

**FESTIVALS****THE OAKLAND STANDARD | Seed*****Sunday, September 18, 1–4 p.m.***

Celebrate the bounty of fall in California! The all-day festival features seed curing activities, a pie contest, short films, an heirloom tomato seed exchange, a library of

farming books for all ages, and live music. All included with Museum admission. OMCA's Oakland Standard is generously funded by the James Irvine Foundation.

### **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Celebration for the Days of the Dead**

***Sunday, October 23, Noon–4:30 p.m.***

OMCA comes alive with the spirit and tradition of Days of the Dead! Craft activities, food, music, dance, and *ceremonia* bring the community together for healing and honoring the dead. Watch demonstrations of traditional Meso-American arts and food; enjoy live music and performances, and buy local Days of the Dead merchandise for your home altar from a real *mercado*. Bike valet parking provided by East Bay Bicycle Coalition. Included with Museum admission.

### **LATE NIGHT EVENTS**

#### **O ZONE @ OMCA**

***Friday, September 30, 5 p.m.–Midnight***

An evening inspired by the special exhibition *A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey*. Food, cocktails, a Beer Garden, and music with The Coup, DJ Platur (of the Oakland Faders), Whiskerman, and Conspiracy of Beards, plus fun, eco-friendly activities. Don't miss the mustache and beard contest—OMCA is in search of the best John Muir Beard in the Bay! Free with Museum admission. O Zone is made possible by Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

### **TALKS**

#### **OMCA TALK: Remembering the 1991 Oakland-Berkeley Fire: In Conversation with Richard Misrach**

***Friday, October 14, 7:30–9 p.m.***

Join the conversation with world-renown Berkeley-based photographer Richard Misrach and OMCA Curator of Photography and Visual Culture Drew Johnson about Misrach's artistic practice. A book signing of Misrach's limited-edition book *1991* follows the talk. Included with Museum admission.

### **FREE EVENTS**

#### **FREE FIRST SUNDAYS: Free Day @ OMCA**

***Sunday, September 4, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.***

First Sundays are free! Enjoy the new Galleries of California Art and California History; see the special exhibition *A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey*; tour the building with members of the Museum's Council on Architecture; take docent-led tours of the Art Gallery and the History Gallery; grab lunch or a snack at Blue Oak; and shop for great gifts at the new OMCA Store. Free First Sundays are made possible in part by Wells Fargo.

## **FREE FIRST SUNDAYS: Free Day @ OMCA**

***Sunday, October 2, 11 a.m.–5 p.m.***

First Sundays are free @ OMCA! Enjoy the new Galleries of California Art and California History; see the special exhibition *A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey*; tour the building with members of the Museum's Council on Architecture; take docent-led tours; grab lunch or a snack at Blue Oak café; and shop for great gifts at the OMCA Store. Free First Sundays are made possible in part by Wells Fargo.

## **TOURS**

### **OMCA BIKE TOURS: Oakland on Two Wheels**

***Sunday, September 18, 10 a.m.–Noon***

Explore Oakland and its environs with the Museum's bike-tripping docents as you leisurely peddle your way through new and old Oakland or Alameda. Bring your bicycle, helmet, repair kit, and adventurous spirit! Reservations: [docentcenter@museumca.org](mailto:docentcenter@museumca.org) or 510-318-8470 Participants must be 12 or older. Oakland Tour meets at Oak Street entrance at 10 a.m. Free. Alameda Tour meets at Fruitvale Bart at 10 a.m. Free.

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## **BOOKSIGNINGS IN THE OMCA STORE**

### **OMCA STORE: Workshop & Book Signing with Peter and Donna Thomas**

***Sunday, September 18, 1 p.m.***

Meet Peter and Donna Thomas, authors of *Exploring Natural Beauty in Urban Settings*, and share your stories of discovery and wonder while hiking in the Bay Area. Hear about their adventures backpacking along the John Muir Trail as told in their book *Muir Ramble*.

## **FEATURED EXHIBITION**

### **A Walk in the Wild: Continuing John Muir's Journey Through January 22, 2012**

Explore John Muir's life and the ways he continues to influence our relationship with the natural world in this exhibition highlighting the legacy of history's most radical environmentalist. Told through OMCA's collections of art, history, and natural science;

interactives; and select loans—journals, manuscripts, and original drawings—the exhibition is a tribute to the radical Father of the National Parks.

## **OPENING EXHIBITIONS**

### **Love & Loss: Días de los Muertos 2011**

***October 12–December 11, 2011***

OMCA celebrates the 17th annual Days of the Dead exhibition this fall. The special installation, on view in the Gallery of California Art, looks beyond traditional icons to explore the heartfelt tales that altars have to tell. Featuring 14 individual artists and three school and community installations, the exhibition pays special attention to the importance of *ofrendas* and to the intimate sacred spaces that house them. Organized by OMCA Senior Experience Developer Evelyn Orantes and guest curator Patricia Rodríguez, Chicana artist, educator, co-founder of Bay Area art Collective “Mujeres Muralistas.”

### **1991: Oakland-Berkeley Fire Aftermath, Photographs by Richard Misrach**

***October 15, 2011–February 12, 2012***

In October 1991, immediately following the catastrophic firestorm which struck the Oakland and Berkeley Hills, Bay Area photographer Richard Misrach ventured into the fire zone armed with his 8x10-inch view camera. Working alone amidst the ruins, he roamed devastated neighborhoods, recording both stark vistas and intimate details of destroyed homes. Out of respect for the victims of the fire—which killed 25 people, injured 150 others, and destroyed 1,520 acres—Misrach’s images have remained in storage with limited visibility to the public. This October, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the monumental firestorm, the Oakland Museum of California and the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive simultaneously present identical exhibitions featuring 16 large-format photographs documenting this tragic part of the Bay Area’s history.

## **ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA's groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California's cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.8 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California's dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

## **VISITOR INFORMATION**

Museum admission is \$12 general; \$9 seniors and students with valid ID, \$6 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART

station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the new 1000 Oak Street main entrance.

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