

The Story of California. The Story of You.

Oakland Museum of California



CONTACT: Kelly A. Koski
510-318-8453 or
communications@museumca.org

**OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA COMMEMORATES
DAYS OF THE DEAD WITH A SPECIAL EXHIBITION
AND COMMUNITY DAY CELEBRATION**

Forgotten Stories, Remarkable Lives: Días de los Muertos 2012
Honors Everyday California Heroes

*Exhibition of Altars by Artists, Schools, and Museum Docents is Guest Curated by
Eduardo Pineda with Community Celebration on Sunday, October 21*

This release is available online at: www.museumca.org/pressroom

(Oakland, CA) August 30, 2012—A wide range of local artists, including **Rob-O, Imelda Martinez, Brett Cook, Adrian Arias, Hector Dio Mendoza, Cece Carpio,** and **Jenifer Wofford** are featured in the Oakland Museum of California's (OMCA) **18th annual Days of the Dead** observance and exhibition. On view in the Museum's Great Hall **October 10 through December 9, 2012**, the exhibition **Forgotten Stories, Remarkable Lives: Días de los Muertos 2012**, features stories about **everyday Californians—from political activists to migrant *braceros* to former slaves—who've made a difference**. In addition to individual artists' altars, the exhibition features community altars by OMCA docents and students from **Tennyson High School** (Hayward) and **Melrose Leadership Academy** (Oakland).

Through altars and installations, the exhibition pays tribute to Californians in the recent and more distant past, and unveils how **their remarkable experiences compose the narrative of change in the ever-evolving story of California**. Using the Oakland Museum of California's History Gallery for inspiration, participants were invited to excavate and discover lesser-known stories of Californians. The exhibition celebrates the lives of Californians and reaffirms the extraordinary tapestry that makes up the Golden State.

"I wanted to look at Californians who have changed the course of history and then look beyond the story they're known for," says **guest curator Eduardo Pineda**, who organized the exhibition.

Examples of altars featured in the exhibition include:

Rob O and **Imelda Martinez** place their grandparents among the **Braceros** (Mexican agricultural workers), after hearing this unspoken family history.

Cece Carpio draws parallels between **Braceros and Sakadas** (Filipino agricultural workers) through the commonalities between a Filipino funerary tradition and Days of the Dead.

Jenifer Wofford researched nurses in her family who dedicated their lives to the care of others, even when interned during **World War II**.

Adrian Arias and **Brett Cook** honor the actions of **Lew Ayres** and **Bobby Hutton**, focusing on intent instead of historic stature.

Dionicio Mendoza shares the intimate story of his twin who died as a baby, reminding us of life's potential and the significance of the first night of Days of the Dead.

Tennyson High School and **Melrose Leadership Academy** teachers and students and **OMCA Docents** honor the legacy of people highlighted in the **Museum's history collection**.

A special **Days of the Dead Community Celebration** is planned for **Sunday, October 21, from 12 to 4:30 pm**. The day features an opening ritual, craft activities, food, dance and music performances and *ceremonia*, gallery tours, demonstrations of traditional Meso-American arts and foods, local Days of the Dead merchandise, and a featured performance by **Los Cenzontles**. ***All included in regular Museum admission.***

The exhibition is guest curated by **Eduardo Pineda**, who has been an active participant in the United States Community Mural Movement since 1978. Pineda has held positions in museum education at both the Museum of the African Diaspora (MoAD) and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), and has artwork in the collection of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco's Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts and the public art collection of the Alameda County Arts Commission.

Forgotten Stories, Remarkable Lives: *Días de los Muertos 2012* is made possible in part by generous support from the Oakland Museum Women's Board.

ABOUT DAYS OF THE DEAD

Celebrated annually between October 31 and November 2, the Mesoamerican tradition of Days of the Dead or *Días de los Muertos* is widely associated with iconic and colorful elements—such as sugar skulls, marigolds, and altars—or *ofrendas*—arranged or created in honor of deceased loved ones. OMCA's annual *Días de los Muertos* Celebration has been one of the Bay Area's most popular community events, drawing thousands of participants annually to mark the traditional Mesoamerican celebration.

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

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. OMCA is situated between downtown Oakland and Lake Merritt. 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. For more information, visit www.museumca.org.

* * *