

# MFA **H** *The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*

***The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, celebrates National Hispanic Heritage Month and beyond with programs and activities for all ages***  
*New series of Spanish-language audio guides and gallery tours available*

All of the following events are free with Museum admission, unless otherwise noted. Visit [www.mfah.org/calendar](http://www.mfah.org/calendar) for additional information and updates.

## **Exhibition**

### ***Calaveras Mexicanas: The Art and Influence of José Guadalupe Posada***

*Opens Friday, September 13*

This exhibition has been organized to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of José Guadalupe Posada (1852–1913), “the father of Mexican printmaking.” Posada is the artist most closely associated with imagery related to *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead), a holiday celebrated in Mexico, and around the world, on November 1–2 to honor and celebrate departed loved ones. Presenting approximately 50 works of art, the show contextualizes Posada’s work and his contributions to Mexican art and culture.

Spanish-language gallery talks on the exhibition will be offered Thursdays, September 19 and October 3 at 6 p.m. Gallery talks in English will be offered every Saturday at 3 p.m. throughout the month of November.

*Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*



## **Family-Friendly Programs**

### **Sunday Family Zone + Studio: “Dancing Skeletons and the Day of the Dead”**

*Sunday, October 13, 20 and 27, from 1 to 4 p.m.*

The Kinder Foundation Education Center hosts a suite of programs for children and families in conjunction with *Calaveras Mexicanas*, including **Sunday Storytime**, beginning at 1:30 p.m.; **Creation Station**, where families are invited to enter the studio and create art inspired by an original artwork on display in the **Family Zone**; and **Gallery Investigations** that encourage families to learn more about a work of art through games and hands-on activities.

On Sunday, October 13, at 1 p.m., families are invited to partake in a Spanish-language program of **¡Libro de Cuentos y Visitas para Familias!**, which encourages connections between the bilingual story book *The Day of the Dead, El Día de los Muertos* by Bob Barner and the artwork of José Guadalupe Posada.

*The Kinder Foundation Education Center, Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*



### **Free Family Day at Bayou Bend: “Hispanic Heritage”**

*Sunday, October 20, from 1 to 5 p.m.*

Children and families are invited for an afternoon of free family fun at Bayou Bend, where guests can learn about Spanish-speaking nations’ contributions to Colonial America and the early United States.

*Bayou Bend Collection and Gardens, 6003 Memorial Drive at Westcott Street*

***¡Día de los Muertos! A Free Family Celebration at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston***  
*Saturday, November 2, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.*

Join the MFAH for a family celebration of the Mexican holiday, *Día de los Muertos*. Enjoy family art making and gallery activities inspired by the exhibition. Discover the art of *papel picado* (perforated paper), a decorative craft of colorful paper cut into elaborate designs. Learn about the process of printmaking and create your own work of art depicting skeletons and skulls, like those in the prints of Posada.

*The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

**Art Improv: “Day of the Dead”**

*Sunday, November 3, from 1 to 4 p.m.*

Families are invited to participate in a special Art Improv program celebrating *Día de los Muertos* and the *Calaveras Mexicanas* exhibition. Together, families will choose a work of art in the exhibition and make friends with it—spend time looking, writing and talking about it. Then, they will visit the studio for an assortment of materials to create a work of art inspired by the new “friends” and their own imaginations. On this special Sunday, families can also choose a work of art to draw at “Sketching in the Galleries” and discover the artwork of Posada. A teaching artist is on hand with paper, pencils and clipboards to get you started. This family program is open to adults, kids, couples—everyone’s invited!

*Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

**A Looking Activity: “Calaveras at the MFAH”**

*Available throughout the duration of Calaveras Mexicanas*

Using a special handout available at the Museum, explore the galleries and identify the skulls and skeletons that populate the permanent collection. With Posada as inspiration, go in search of the many paintings, sculptures and artifacts from around the world and across the centuries that incorporate such images and learn about the different contexts in which they were used.

*The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

***Papel Picado***

*Available throughout the duration of Calaveras Mexicanas*

The Museum’s Kinder Foundation Education Center is offering an interactive space that includes books, catalogues and film related to *Calaveras Mexicanas*. Using scissors and tissue paper, patrons of all ages can create their own *papel picado* inspired by works of art on view in the exhibition.

*The Kinder Foundation Education Center, Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

**Adult Programs**

**Lecture: “Surveys, Canons, and Contemporary Art: A New Look at 500 Years of Mexican Art and Architecture”**

*Wednesday, September 25, at 6:30 p.m.*

James Oles—senior lecturer in art at Wellesley College, adjunct curator of Latin American art at the Davis Museum and author of *Art and Architecture in Mexico*—will provide insight into the process behind writing the first comprehensive survey of Mexican art in almost a half century. A book-signing at the MFAH Shop follows the lecture.

*American General Conference Room, Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main Street*

**Lecture: “Infinite Islands: Art, Internationalization and Cultural Dynamics”**

*Wednesday, October 9, at 6:30 p.m.*

Gerardo Mosquera is an independent art critic, curator, historian and writer based in Havana and Madrid. In this public lecture, sponsored by the Latin Maecenas and Rice University’s Department of Art History,

Mosquera will analyze the problems of art and culture in the context of contemporary internationalized art circuits.

*American General Conference Room, Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main Street*

### **October Artful Thursday: “Marigolds & Skulls”**

Thursday, October 17, at 6:30 p.m.

Houston-based photographer Geoff Winningham will speak about the traditions, costumes and food of *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead). Photographs from his innumerable travels through Mexico will illustrate this Mexican holiday celebrated annually on November 1–2. Mr. Winningham is the Lynette S. Autry Chair in the Humanities and professor of photography at Rice University and author of the photography book *In the Eye of the Sun: Mexican Fiestas*.

*Brown Auditorium Theater, Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

### **Hands-on Workshop: “Posada & Printmaking”**

Saturday, October 19, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Workshop participants will tour the *Calaveras Mexicanas* exhibition to learn about the life and the work of José Guadalupe Posada. Then go to the printmaking studio of the Glassell Studio School, where Houston-based printmaker David J. Webb will demonstrate the relief etching process used by the artist. Participants will then create linoleum cut prints, emulating the woodcut printing technique used by Posada to great effect.

The workshop fee is \$60 for MFAH members and \$70 for nonmembers, with an additional \$15 fee for materials. Visit [www.mfah.org/calendar](http://www.mfah.org/calendar) for reservations and more information.

*Meet in the lobby of the Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

### **Friday and Saturday Afternoon Lecture Series: “Posada’s *Calaveras*: Roots and Reasons”**

Friday, November 8, at 1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 9, at 4 p.m.

Dr. Marion Oettinger, Jr., curator of Latin American art at the San Antonio Art Museum, will present a richly-illustrated lecture on the origins of the *Calaveras*, and the broader context in which they have been depicted. Admission is \$5 for MFAH members and \$8 for nonmembers.

*Brown Auditorium Theater, Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

## **Evenings at the MFAH**

### **Happy Hour Thursday**

Thursday, October 31, from 6 to 8 p.m.

There’s no better way to kick-start Halloween night than a museum-style happy hour. General admission to the MFAH is free on Thursdays, and guests can enjoy a drink at the cash bar, enjoy beats from a local DJ and satisfy hunger with bites from Ladybird Food Truck.

*Audrey Jones Beck Building, 5601 Main Street*

### **MFAH Mixed Media Designed by IKEA, *Día de los Muertos***

Friday, November 1, from 8 p.m. to midnight

This series of late-night parties features drinks, dancing, high-energy live music and DJs in an event space designed by a team from IKEA Houston. For more information and tickets closer to the event date, visit [www.mfah.org/mixedmedia](http://www.mfah.org/mixedmedia).

*Cullinan Hall and North Foyer, Caroline Wiess Law Building, 1001 Bissonnet Street*

## Audio Tours in Spanish

### **“Beyond the Surface”**

Available on Saturday, September 28

Explore the mysteries and stories behind the Museum’s collections, as told by MFAH conservators, who are charged with preserving these works for the future.

### ***American Adversaries: West and Copley in a Transatlantic World***

Available on Sunday, October 6

Narrated by curator of American painting and sculpture Emily Neff and assistant curator Kaylin Weber, this audio tour explores the relationship between American-born Briton painters Benjamin West and John Singleton Copley—once great friends but eventually bitter rivals.

### ***Antonio Berni: Juanito and Ramona***

Available on Sunday, November 10

Mari Carmen Ramírez, the Wurtham Curator of Latin American Art, and Michael Wellen, the assistant curator of Latin American and Latino art, illuminate Antonio Berni’s social commentary on life in Argentina in the mid-1950s and beyond, as told through the visual narrative of fictional characters Juanito and Ramona.

Audio players can be reserved at Museum lobby desks for a cost of \$4 for MFAH Members and \$5 for nonmembers.

## **Organization**

*Calaveras Mexicanas: The Art and Influence of José Guadalupe Posada* is organized by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. This exhibition was co-curated by Dena M. Woodall, associate curator of prints and drawings, and Rebecca Dunham, curatorial assistant of prints and drawings.

## **Press Contact**

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**First Page Illustration:** José Guadalupe Posada, *Calavera de la Catrina (Skull of the Female Dandy)*, from the portfolio *36 Grabados: José Guadalupe Posada*, published by Arsacio Vanegas, Mexico City, Mexico, c. 1910, printed 1943, photo-relief etching with engraving, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Museum purchase funded by the friends of Freda Radoff.