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**TWO UPCOMING FWMoA EXHIBITS CELEBRATE LATINO HERITAGE AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE**

## **Day of the Dead Altar Exhibit Honors Passed Loved Ones FWMoA Commissions South Bend artist to create commemorative artwork**

October 11, 2013 (Fort Wayne, IN) -- The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is proud to present two exhibitions celebrating Latino heritage and contemporary culture with the annual favorite Day of the Dead, and new for 2013, the debut of selections from a major acquisition of over 200 contemporary Latino prints from the Serie Project. Both exhibits open on October 19, with a special public preview at the Fall Party on October 18.

**Día de los Muertos**, or **Day of the Dead**, celebrates the traditional Mexican holiday with altars honoring deceased loved ones created by members of the community. Even if you're not familiar with the traditions of Día de los Muertos, you probably recognize its images—brightly decorated sugar skulls, dancing skeletons still wearing the bright clothes of their less ghostly pasts, and marigold-like flowers, called *cempasúchil*.

On display **October 19 - November 2**, this home-grown exhibit will feature traditional Mexican altars with sugar skulls, colorful tissue paper cutouts, photos of deceased relatives and their personal effects to honor their lives. The Day of the Dead, an ancient religious celebration that originally honored children and the dead has evolved to feature a blend of Meso-American and Christian elements. The celebration is considered a festive time when family members remember and honor their dead and the continuity of life. The Museum is working with local artists and community groups to create both small and large altars for the exhibit, honoring the memories of our ancestors and other loved ones.

For 2013, FWMoA continued its tradition of commissioning a fine artist to create an artwork for the Day of the Dead exhibition. The artwork is an altar installation by South Bend artist Ramiro Rodriguez, the first commissioned altar in FWMoA's Day of the Dead history.

The FWMoA will be presenting two events related to this exhibition. For younger children and their families, the Dia de los Muertos **Nino's Day on October 20 from 12-4pm** will feature storytelling, treats from George's La Baguette Bakery, and an interactive activity for children to imagine and create their own Dia de los Muertos celebration, as inspired by Diego Rivera's famous mural "Dream of a Sunday Afternoon in Alameda Park". **October 26 from 4-8pm is the Family Celebration**, featuring live mariachi, folkloric dancers, storytelling, Day of the Dead costumed characters, and food and drink from El Azteca. Admission to both events is free.

The public is invited to preview *Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead* and *Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints from the Serie Project* at the Fall Party on October 18 from 6-9:30pm, with live music from the Orange Opera at 7:30pm and a cash bar and seasonal bites from Three Sixty. Admission is \$5 for FWMoA Members and \$12 for Non-Members. RSVP at [fwmoa.org/rsvp](http://fwmoa.org/rsvp).

## **Graphicanos: Contemporary Prints Highlight Latino Culture Today** **FWMoA's purchase of 200 prints from Sam Coronado's Serie Project inspired the exhibition**

This spring the Fort Wayne Museum of Art made a major purchase of over 200 works created over the last two decades from The Serie Project, a non-profit organization founded by Sam Coronado in 1993 in Austin, Texas, that promotes the fine art of serigraphy. In the last two decades the organization has fostered over 250 artists from different professional levels and ethnic backgrounds, who together have produced a rare and special collection of serigraphs. The exhibition ***Graphicanos: Contemporary Latino Prints from the Serie Project***, on display from October 19 – January 5, will be Fort Wayne's first glimpse at this special FWMoA collection.

When Sam Coronado founded the Serie Project, he envisioned a workshop where underrepresented artists could benefit from collaboration and learn the serigraphy technique, a print technique also known as screen-printing or silkscreen. Coronado's vision for the Serie Project came after he encountered Self Help Graphics in 1991, a non-profit studio serving the Latino community of Los Angeles. Coronado's participation in this program advocated to him that prints, a vital aspect of the Chicano art movement, can continue to reflect the Mexican American and Latino experience in the United States.

Hoping to grant better access to this historically significant medium, Coronado made it his mission to provide affordable printmaking services in his hometown of Austin, Texas. In 1992 he established Coronado Studio, a commercial printmaking facility, and in the following year founded the "Serie Print Project" as a separate, nonprofit entity. The Serie Print Project enabled Coronado to direct an Artist in Residence program through which artists could utilize Coronado Studio at no cost to them. The organization was renamed and incorporated as "The Serie Project" in 1999. With much dedication, Coronado has served the Serie Project as executive director since its inception.

As part of its vision for art and culture in Fort Wayne, the Museum of Art recognized the efforts of Coronado and the work of the Serie Project to support Chicano artists as important elements to include not just in its annual exhibitions, but also in its permanent collection. Now, more than 200 prints from the groundbreaking efforts of the Serie Project are part of the Fort Wayne community, accessible through the upcoming ***Graphicanos*** exhibit and after that, through the FWMoA Print and Drawing Study Center, a research center open to the public dedicated to the study and enjoyment of FWMoA's extensive collection of works on paper, including Serie Project prints.

On November 8 at 6:30pm, Sam Coronado will deliver a lecture at FWMoA on the Serie Project and his personal history as an artist dedicated to promotion Latino artists and culture. Public welcome. Admission: \$5 – FWMoA Members, \$10 – Guests.

**About the Fort Wayne Museum of Art:** Beginning with art classes in 1888 by J. Ottis Adams and later William Forsyth, the Museum of Art has evolved into a center for the visual arts community in Northeast Indiana. Regularly exhibiting nationally acclaimed artists, the FWMoA also boasts an extensive collection of American Art as well as prints and drawings from artists such as Jackson Pollock and Andy Warhol. The Museum is committed to the collection, preservation, presentation and interpretation of American and related art to engage broad and diverse audiences throughout the community and region, and add value to their lives. The Fort Wayne Museum of Art is a funded partner of Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne.

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