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Left image: Performers from Folkloric Dance Group Quetzalcoatl.

Middle image: Families enjoy art-making activities.

Right image: Traditional altars on display, created by school and community groups.

21st Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration at SBMA

Sunday, October 30, 1 - 4 pm

September 29, 2011 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art presents a free family day in celebration of **Día de los Muertos** on **Sunday, October 30, from 1 to 4 pm**, in the Museum's back plaza, and throughout the galleries. For the 22nd year, the Museum honors the Mexican tradition of remembering the dead with a variety of family festivities including art activities, live music, dance performances, altar displays, and traditional Mexican refreshments. **Admission to the family event and to the Museum is free.**

Inspired by the Día de los Muertos traditions and works of art currently on view in the Museum galleries, the art activities during the event will include mini-altars inspired by artists in *Van Gogh to Munch*, frames inspired by the work of Hans Hoffman from the exhibition *Anish Kapoor: Turning the World Inside Out and Selected Abstraction, 1940s-90s*, oil pastel portraits after the work in *Picasso and Braque: The Cubist Experiment, 1910 - 1912*, as well as traditional festival skull charms. Music by Luis Moreno, Juan "Beto" Zaragoza, and Daisy Leon will be performed throughout the day, and visitors will enjoy the dance performances by the Folkloric Dance Group Quetzalcoatl.

The sale of **limited edition t-shirts**, with original, stenciled designs created by **La Cuesta Continuation High School student artists** are also on sale as part of the celebration. The sale proceeds will go toward the La Cuesta Art Scholarship which will be awarded to a graduating senior at the 2012 commencement. The Santa Barbara Museum of Art and La Cuesta Continuation High School have been collaborating since 2007, providing opportunities for students to explore forms of self-expression through art and language. Previous projects have been exhibited in the Museum Store window and SBMA elevator, and at the Ridley-Tree Education Center at McCormick House, as well as a number of Free Family Days.

The Day of the Dead is traditionally celebrated by creating altars or "ofrendas" (offerings) that include portraits, personal goods, clothing, favorite foods, and possessions of the deceased family member. This is an important social ritual that symbolizes the cycle of life and death that is human existence. SBMA's display of altars have been created by various local schools and community organizations including **La Cuesta Continuation High School**; students enrolled in the Museum's after-school outreach programs – Homework/Artwork After-School at the **Eastside Library** and **Franklin Elementary**; Art After School in collaboration with the **A-OK at Franklin Elementary** and **Adams Elementary**; and **Notre Dame School**, **Aliso Elementary**, **Canalino Elementary**, **Brandon Elementary**, **Monroe Elementary Schools** that received the Museum's in-

classroom outreach program ArtReach. Each group has incorporated traditional symbols and iconography to offer thanks to departed family, friends or artists in the Museum's collection for their help in guiding and protecting those who remain on earth.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. 805.963.4364 www.sbma.net