

VISION GALLERY

For Immediate Release

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Dearly Departed: A Day of the Dead Celebration, Exhibition Oct. 19 - Nov. 7 in downtown Chandler

Chandler, Arizona – Dearly Departed: A Day of the Dead Celebration and Exhibition of Ofrendas, Cajitas and Artworks, will run Oct. 19-Nov. 7 at Vision Gallery, 80 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler.

Admission is free, and gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, call 480.917.6859.

An artists' reception will be held on Wed., Nov. 4, from 6-8:30 p.m. The reception, free and open to the public, coincides with the November downtown Chandler Art Walk.

The Dearly Departed exhibition will close with an open house and gallery tours on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., also free and open to the public. In addition, there will be free children's make 'n' take activities on Nov. 7 from 1-4 p.m. Kids will have the chance to decorate sugar skulls and make pressed-tin ornaments.

Dearly Departed artists are: Virginia Aguero, Jose Benavides, Jorge Rodriguez Eagar, Lupe Flores, Pamela Tarpy, Vicki Gaia, Valarie James, Antonia Gallegos, Catherine Hammond, Diane Howell, Ruben Maqueda, Ellen Hull Martin, Scott McNeill, Juan Olalde, Rosie Villegas-Smith, Mary Lou Stewart, Yvonne Villareal-Torres, Hank Tusinski, Linda Vallejo, Steven Velasquez, Rose Warner, and schoolchildren from Galveston Elementary School.

Through wall pieces and installation work created for Dearly Departed, Vision Gallery visitors will take part in a tradition that dates back thousands of years. The ritual, called Dia de los Muertos, or, The Day of the Dead, is celebrated in Mexico and parts of the United States. It is characterized by the traditional Mexican blend of ancient and contemporary features used to remember the dearly departed and to celebrate life.

Many of the artists chosen for the Dearly Departed exhibition at Vision Gallery will build on this tradition to honor themes and people important to us all. Yvonne

Villareal-Torres' work will focus on the death of the ocean. Pamela Tarpy and Vicki Gaia will honor women, such as Rosa Parks, who have made an impact on the world. Rose Warner and Diane Howell will focus on family pets who have passed. Virginia Agüero will pay homage to Dr. A.J. Chandler, the founder of Chandler, Ariz.

The Dearly Departed artist roster includes three California artists – Lupe Flores, Steven Velasquez and Linda Vallejo – and one Tucson artist, Hank Tusinski.

Where: Vision Gallery, 80 S. San Marcos Place, Chandler,

What: Dearly Departed: A Day of the Dead Celebration and Exhibition of Ofrendas, Cajitas and Artworks

When: Oct. 19-Nov. 7, 2009

Hours: Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Information: 480.917.6859

Photos: Available upon request