

**G A L E R I A
L A S
A M E R I C A S**

**LINDA
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: LINDA VALLEJO

**GRAND INAUGURAL SEASON
FALL AND WINTER 1996 CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS EXHIBITION, LECTURE AND A SPECIAL EVENING NOVENA
featuring a community altar and evening of reflection
LATIN AMERICAN POETRY EVENT
a marathon of contemporary writers from throughout the continent

I. DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

Fine Art Exhibition	October 30 and 31, November 1 and 2, 1996
Community Altar	November 1, Friday, 10-6 PM
Lecture Evening	November 1, Friday, 6-9 PM
Blessing Ceremony and Evening of Reflection	November 2, Saturday, 6-9 PM

El Dia de Los Muertos is a day to celebrate life! El Dia de Los Muertos is a traditional day of prayer, reflection, and celebration to honor our lovingly remembered family members and loved ones. On this day we create an altar and set aside a time to gather photographs and memories of those so important to our lives and future. Families take this time to recollect the lives of grandparents, great-grandparents and loved ones in a moment of silence and joy. Families and children are most welcome. One does not cry on the Dia de Los Muertos, but welcomes the dead to return to earth for a day of celebration together.

Galeria Las Americas will present a series of Day of the Dead art works by featured artists. These artworks will acknowledge the impact of this traditional Mexican holiday and its influence on Latino American and Chicano culture in the United States. Galeria Las Americas will present a beautifully traditional and sentimental evening of quiet reflection and meditation on The Day of the Dead, November 2, 1996 from 6 - 9 PM. The Flores de Aztlan, a community group of Chicano women involved in indigenous traditional ceremony will create a community altar of exceptional beauty and meaning.

The evening will begin at 6 PM with a blessing ceremony presented by The Flores de Aztlan. Chocolate and pan dulce will be served. The community is welcomed to bring photographs of fondly remembered loved ones to hang on a tree of life altar decorated with traditional Pan de Muerto, Day of the Dead Bread, and Calaveras de Azucar, candy skulls for a heartfelt and inspirational evening.

WHAT: DIA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMUNITY ALTAR AND EVENT November 1-2
LATIN AMERICAN AND CHICANO POETRY EVENT December 7-8

WHERE: GALERIA LAS AMERICAS 2307 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA 90405
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II. LATIN AMERICAN POETRY EVENT

Saturday, December 7 12- 10 PM

Sunday, December 8 1 - 6 PM

Galeria Las Americas is proud to present a marathon event of major Latin American and Chicano poets for its Christmas celebratory event 1996. On Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, the gallery will present a ongoing presentation of poets from throughout the Americas in a event designed to highlight the quality and number of poets whose experience and writings span the past five decades. Major literary figures along side emerging contemporary voices will be featured in a beautifully presents Christmas celebration of the literary arts.

The mature work of Dr. Lucy Cabieles and the vibrant contemporary voice of Gloria Alvarez will be featured in this non-stop weekend of meaning, image, vision, and word. A roster of thirty-two writers and poets will be invited to present individual readings over twenty minute spans followed by intimate breaks and conversations. Latin American and Chicano writers interested in presenting should call the gallery during business hours for scheduling.

CONTINUING GRAND INAUGURAL EXHIBITION

"ARTE DE LAS AMERICAS 1996" featuring East Los Streetscapers, Nik Fernandez, Mario G. Lopez, Isabel Martinez, Tony Ortega, Rodrigo Palacios, Sara Palacios, Danny Salazar, Teddy Sandoval, Rudy Torres, Linda Vallejo, and Rene Vasquez. As a major step in our efforts towards the advancement of Chicano and Latino Americano artists and art, we are pleased to announce the publication of ARTE DE LAS AMERICAS 1996, a high quality full color 32 page fine arts catalog featuring thirteen artists from the roster of Galeria Las Americas. This exquisite 32 page fine art catalog will contain 35 full-color images, a gallery introduction essay, a special VIP and Collector thank you page, artists photos and brief biographies.

GALERIA LAS AMERICAS has received major coverage and outstanding critical reviews in newspaper and magazine publications, radio and television shows, including KTLA, KTTV, the Hispanic National Reporter, ARTnews, Hola Los Angeles, KPFK, Artweek, ARTnews, the Hollywood Reporter, LA Times, LA City Times, La Opinion, the Los Angeles Downtown News, Nuestro Tiempo, and "Buscando America" KABC Channel 7. The gallery was recently featured in LATIN STYLE MAGAZINE and will appear on Channel 22 "Acceso" and SALUDOS HISPANOS this winter.

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