



FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

WITH MR. GEORGE
OCTOBER 4th TUESDAY
EDITION



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Día de los Muertos

Day of the Dead, or El Día de los Muertos, is a traditional Mexican holiday, celebrating and honoring those who have departed. It is believed that spirits of the dead visit their families on October 31, and leave on November 2.

El Día de los Muertos is a positive occasion. Homes are decorated with beautiful alters, known as offends, laden with offerings of food and gifts for the weary spirit travelers. The Day of the Dead is truly a celebration of those who have passed, rather than a sad or morbid gathering. It is a festive, family-centered celebration of friends and relatives.

For the October Fourth Tuesday here at the Huntington Museum of Art, we are using the "Latin American Roots" exhibition to learn more about Día de los Muertos and Mexican painter and muralist Diego Rivera. Rivera's work often depicted working class people of Mexican heritage. On display in HMA's Bridge gallery you will find Rivera's sketch, "Young Woman with Metate." This sketch is an excellent example of Rivera's subjects for the young woman is depicted traditionally making corn tortillas.



(Top) Diego Rivera (Mexican, 1886-1957), *Young Woman with Metate*, ca 1852, pencil on paper, 5 x 7 7/8 inches. Gift of Eason Eige, 2011.2.11. Photography by John Spurlock.

(Bottom) Diego Rivera pictured here with his wife and fellow artist Frida Kahlo. Photo courtesy of The Library of Congress.



ACTIVITY

MATERIALS:

- Scissors
- 1 Green Pipe Cleaner
- 10 pieces of orange and/or yellow tissue paper cut into 5x5 inch squares



1. Gather 10 pieces orange and yellow tissue paper.
2. Stack the tissue paper and fold in an accordion style.
3. Fold the green pipe cleaner in half and cut it.
4. Wrap a pipe cleaner around the middle of the paper to hold it in place. This will also act as the stem.
5. Cut the ends of the paper in a curve.
6. Fan out the paper.
7. Gently separate the first layer of paper from the rest and move it up to form the top layer of petals.
8. Gently separate the rest of the paper layers.
9. Fluff out your flower.

Display your Marigold!

