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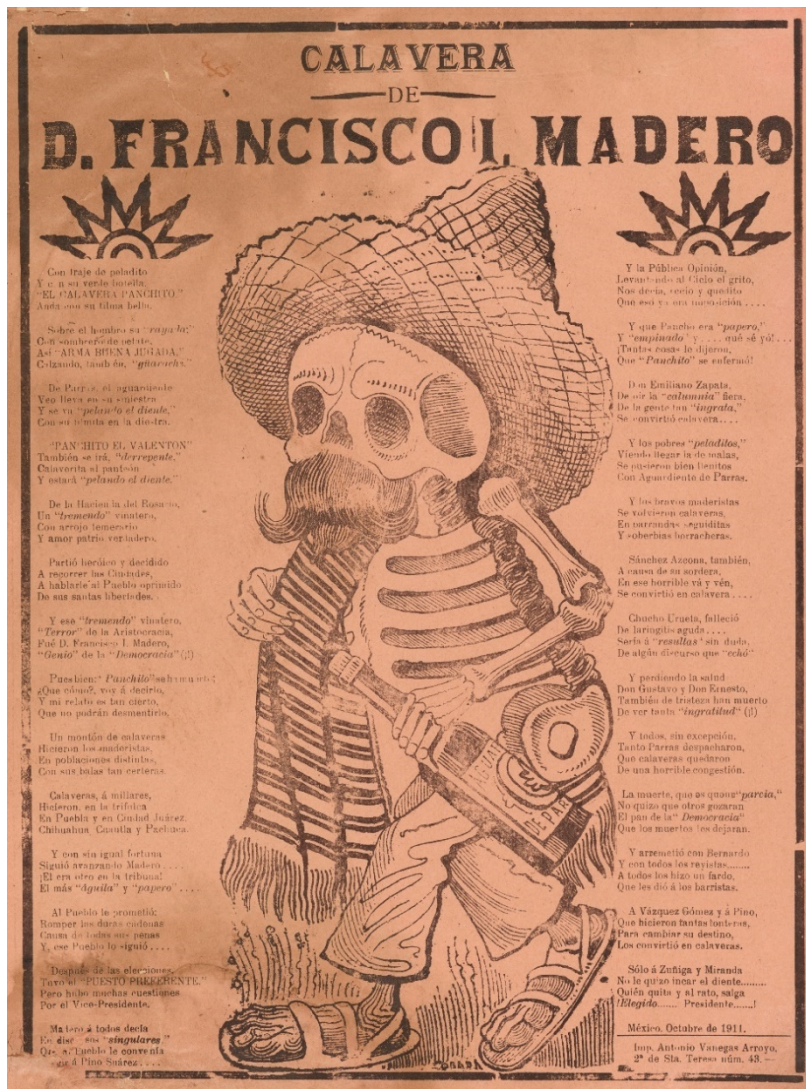
PRESS OFFICE

pressoffice@denverartmuseum.org

Images available upon request.

Denver Art Museum presents *The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada* in October 2023

Iconic Mexican political lithographer has influenced generations of Latin American artists with satirical depth and social engagement



DENVER – Sept. 6, 2023 – The Denver Art Museum (DAM) will present *The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada*, the 19th-century Mexican artist and lithographer whose illustrations of skeletal figures known as “calaveras” and “catrinas” have become an essential part of Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebrations. Featuring a select set of Posada’s prints, including many of his most famous calaveras, *Skeletal World* also includes art that showcases his enduring legacy. *Skeletal World* will be on view from Oct. 29, 2023, to May 12, 2024, in the museum’s Monfort Gallery on the second level of the Hamilton Building and is included in general admission.

Curated by Jorge F. Rivas Pérez, Frederick and Jan Mayer Curator of Latin American Art, the show highlights a treasure in the museum’s deep collections, a gift of Posada’s prints by Denver artist and art history professor

Charles Frederick Ramus (1907-1979).

"Ramus was a life-long admirer of Posada's work and amassed a large collection of his prints over the years, making this a rare opportunity to see his work up close," said Christoph Heinrich, Frederick and Jan Mayer Director of the DAM. "We look forward to celebrating this artist's work with our community in conjunction with Día de los Muertos celebrations."

"You may be familiar with the skeletal figures known as 'calaveras' or 'catrinas' that are so popular in November, but the artist who made them famous, José Guadalupe Posada, is largely unknown, and we are thrilled to present this show at the museum," Rivas added. "He was a self-taught artist and illustrator, and this is a must-see for anyone interested in 19th-century Mexican art, history and culture."

Posada's lithographs have influenced many Latin American and Latino artists, cartoonists and creators because of the satirical depth and acuteness of their social commentary. As one of the most prolific printmakers in Mexico, Posada



used skulls, calaveras and bones to engage in political critiques about everything from social injustice to corruption. One of his most enduring works is *La Calavera Catrina*, now associated with Día de los Muertos.

The Skeletal World of José Guadalupe Posada is organized by the Denver Art Museum. Support is provided by the donors to the Annual Fund Leadership Campaign and the residents who support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). Promotional support is provided by *5280 Magazine* and CBS Colorado.

Planning Your Visit

The most up-to-date information on planning a visit to the Denver Art Museum can be found online under the [Plan Your Visit](#) tab. Use this page to find details on ticket pricing, public transit options and access information. General admission for museum members is free every day. Youth aged 18 and under receive free general



admission everyday thanks to the museum's Free for Kids program. Free for Kids also underwrites free admission for school and youth group visits.

About the Denver Art Museum

The Denver Art Museum is an educational, nonprofit resource that sparks creative thinking and expression through transformative experiences with art. Its mission is to enrich lives by sparking creative thinking and expression. Its holdings reflect the city and region—and provide invaluable ways for the community to learn about cultures from around the world. Metro residents support the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a unique funding source serving hundreds of metro Denver arts, culture and scientific organizations.

For museum information, visit www.denverartmuseum.org or call 720-865-5000.

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Media Contacts

Andy Sinclair/Press Office

Denver Art Museum

720-913-0096/719-761-9390

asinclair@denverartmuseum.org or

pressoffice@denverartmuseum.org

Image Credits:

Image 1: José Guadalupe Posada, *Calavera de D. Francisco Madero (Calavera of D. Francisco Madero)*, 1911. Wood block print on paper; 15 × 11¾ in. Gift of Charles F. Ramus.

Image 2: Luis Tapia, *Doña Sebastiana La Maestra, Will Take Your Requests (Death Cart)*, 2001. Carved and painted wood with horsehair; 31¼ × 40 × 22½ in. Gift of Susan Cosgriff Kirk. © Luis Tapia.

Image 3: José Guadalupe Posada, *La Gran Calavera de Emiliano Zapata (The Great Calavera of Emiliano Zapata)*, about 1900. Wood block print on paper; 16¼ × 11⅞ in. Gift of Charles F. Ramus.