

Arts Common

Media Release

<u>For Immediate Release</u> <u>October 26, 2020</u>

Arts Commons: Rocio Graham honours The Day of the Dead with new Exhibition

CALGARY – This year, the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) - the Mexican celebration of life and death – has inspired a unique exhibition by visual artist, botany enthusiast, and photographer Rocio Graham and she is inviting Calgarians to participate in an unexpected way.

My Garden's Funeral is the Rocio's way of ending a cycle, surrendering to loss, reckoning with grief, and honoring her culture. Raw and personal, My Garden's Funeral is a ritual infused with Rocio's experiences growing up in Mexico, being part of her family's Day of the Dead traditions every year, and learning from her grandmothers. Calgarians can participate by submitting their thoughts, feelings, and experiences they would like to shed and let go of from this year. These messages will be printed on biodegradable paper infused with seeds and be incorporated into next spring's garden.

"My Garden's Funeral is a collective acknowledgement of what we went through. A space that allows people to reflect on the transition of life and death and the transition of the seasons," says Rocio. "Plants go into retreat and they go into the ground and they go dormant. When they go dormant, they are replenishing themselves, they are becoming stronger and they are

rejuvenating and, in the spring, they can flower with more strength."



To learn more or find out how to participate, <u>click here</u>. *My Garden's Funeral* is presented in partnership with Casa Mexico and the 2020 Dia de Muertos and Catrinas Festival.

Who: Arts Commons:

My Garden's Funeral by Rocio Graham

Where: Telus Convention Centre display (across from the Glenbow Museum entrance)

When: Throughout the month of November

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