

# HOUSEHOLD SHRINES: SACRED SPACES IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Reception Saturday, October 10, 5:00 - 7 p.m.

Note that Exhibit stays up until November 15, 2009



Gualala Arts will present an exhibit, "Household Shrines, Sacred Spaces in Everyday Life," in the Burnett Gallery and the beautifully landscaped grounds from the opening Saturday, October 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. through

November 15. This exhibit will be part of the Day of the Dead Festival celebrated on November 1.

All human cultures around the world have rich traditions and rituals for remembering life changing events and honoring the dead. "Art" has its roots in the first cave paintings, carved bones and shaped stone that marked passages in the lives of the people.

"Shrines:" the placement of objects in assemblage to create meaning that is beyond mere words, to change space and time, is a form of expression that remains close to the first artists/shaman. Shrines / altars / icons can be personal, communal, political, spiritual, even interactive, and have often been created by societies and by individuals to become the focal point for remembrance . . . to give a tangible presence for the spiritual.

Whether we recognize it or not, even modern cultures manifest this need to connect with our ancestors and seek spiritual guidance. And it's not restricted to

traditional religious ceremonies. Whenever we wear a poppy and decorate the graves of fallen soldiers, or simply share photographs of our relatives, we are participating in the human need to honor the past and share memories . . . the grave and the photo album become informal shrines. Even companies and elections, which seem far-removed from the spiritual, have traditions for honoring their founding fathers and relating the current generation to the culture and values of the past.

Artists will explore the concepts of death and passages, using shrines / altars / icons to express their vision. Personal shrines will be of many types: journaling, honoring, remembering, healing, attracting, expressing, and exploring . . . even the absurd! The exhibit is not juried and is open to all, regardless of age or calling.



Groups or families may collaborate in the creation of a shrine.

The media will be open to the artists' imaginations, and both two and three dimensional works will be exhibited in interior and exterior spaces. Curators for this exhibit are Sharon Nickodem & Jan Maria Chiappa.