



# MEMENTO MORI:

AN EXHIBITION OF  
CONTEMPORARY ART  
EXPLORING DEATH  
AND THE EPHEMERAL

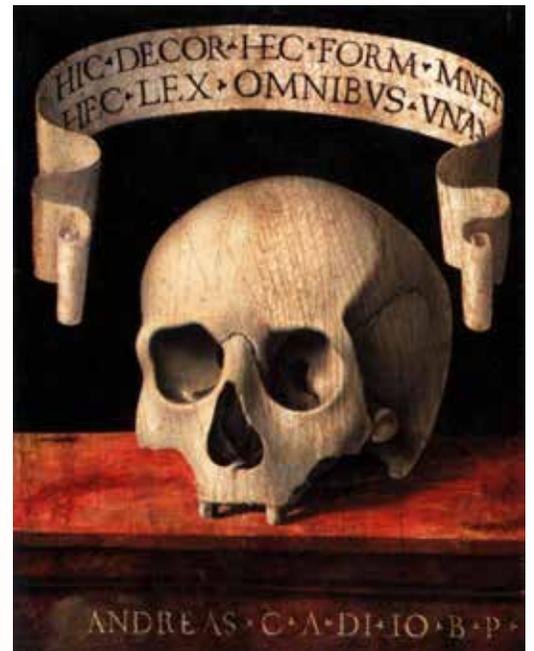
CURATOR: SHARON NICKODEM

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 5:00 P.M.  
EXHIBIT REMAINS THROUGH NOVEMBER 18

*Memento mori* is a Latin phrase translated as "Remember you must die" (and the origin of the English word *memento*, which appeared as *memento mori*, "remembrance of death"). It describes a genre of artistic work which varies widely, but which all share the same purpose: to remind people of their own mortality. The phrase has a tradition in art that dates back to antiquity. This subject need not be all doom and gloom, but is open to comic interpretation, the ecstasy and joy of transformation and the beauty of our love for the departed.

For this exhibit, artists were encouraged to explore the concepts of death and passages, using all forms of media, 2-D and 3-D.

Much *memento mori* art is associated with the Mexican festival, Day of the Dead, including even skull-shaped candies, and bread loaves adorned with bread "bones." It was also famously expressed in the works of the Mexican engraver José Guadalupe Posada, in which various walks of life are depicted as skeletons.



In modern times, *memento mori* art continues to encompass all the nostalgic concepts and symbols used in the past, but today's art also explores these ideas using contemporary symbols and more irreverent expressions.