

Invitation for how to build an Altar in observance of Dia de los Muertos

To have a day (or week, or month even!) dedicated to the observance of a family's death is a custom observed across time, cultures and continents. **During this month we wanted to extend an invitation to you to engage with us as we center the sacred action and ritual practice of Dia De Los Muertos where we honor our ancestors who have cried out justice for all victims of Empire.**

How do we define ritual?

We define ritual as an intentional and symbolic action that springs from, evokes, and develops complex and often deep layers of feeling and thought. It is grounded in our lived experience: our stories, our needs, our authority, and our desires. As such, ritual carries the values and intentions of a given community and can help deepen and repair relationships to one another and to the world around us.



How to make an open, community or family Altar in observance of Day of the Dead:

SUPPLIES:

9 glasses of water

A list of your loved ones names

Flowers

Candles

Incense

Traditional fabric

Objects and foods that your loved one enjoyed in life.

Gather the above supplies, set a place in your home for your Altar. If you are non Native, to cleanse your Altar space with smoke, incense is a good alternative to closed practices like Smudging with endangered and Palo Santo (Sacred to Native Tribes of the South America) or Sage (Sacred to Native Tribes of the North) Rosemary, Pine, Rose and Lavender are also great smoke cleansing herbs that are open practice for everyone to use.



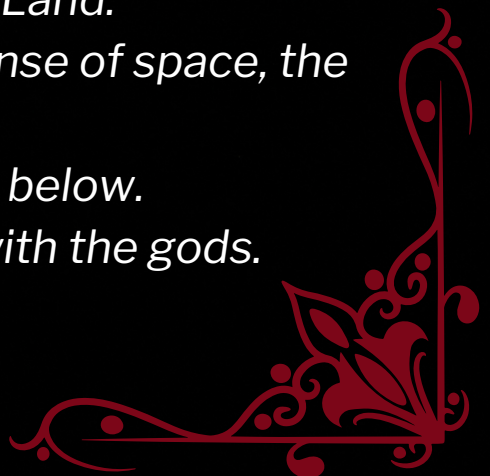
I honor you, Mother Earth.

I honor you, Native Spirits of this Land.

*I greet the Sun, the Moon, the endless expanse of space, the
ocean of stars.*

I greet the 4 directions, above and below.

I greet you, my upper self who resides with the gods.





Begin setting your table with a traditional cloth in which you will safely place your candles and water cups. Arrange your flowers at the corners of your altar, so that their sweet scent may guide your Ancestors spirits, flower petal trails toward your Altar are also encouraged. Foods and objects for your loved ones should be placed with intention, using your names list, you want to name your Ancestors and invite them to your table.

Remember, not just our Bloodlines are our Ancestors, those Saints who have gone before us fighting to bring the world a Revolution are cheering us on and ready to offer spiritual support if we just ask. You can absolutely add Doctor King, King Tupac Amaru, Frida Khalo...

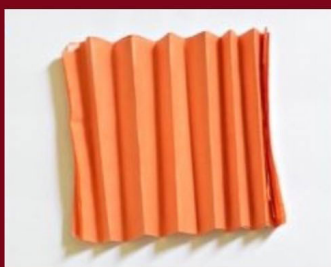
My Ancestors, I call you. If you are in the heavens, come. If you are in the waters, come. If you are in the earth, come. Hear my voice wherever you are and make your presence manifest. I call you (insert names of ancestors) and all of you whose names I do not know, yet love and blood ties us together. May you be present and accounted for. I pray that we be healed and uplifted together, that our souls be healed and uplifted together, backwards and forwards in time, that we do not carry pain and suffering any longer. May we walk this journey together for the Good of All and Harm to None.

Once your altar is complete you can upkeep it by keeping the water, foods and flowers fresh weekly and re-cleansing with smoke during full moon or be taken down after the festival.

Intentional Art Practice: Making a Tissue Paper Marigold

Fold 5-6 sheets of tissue paper

1



In an accordion-style, fold the paper lengthwise

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¡Asegure con limpiapipas y corte!

Secure with pipe cleaner and cut!

2



Wrap the pipe cleaner in the middle of your folded sheets. Then, using scissors, round the edges of the paper.

Envuelve el limpiapipas en medio de las hojas dobladas. Luego, con unas tijeras, redondea los bordes del papel.

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3

Fan it out and carefully pull a single sheet of paper to the center on both sides, one after the other.



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Arrange the flower!

Push, pull, and fluff the tissue paper gently to arrange it to look like marigold flowers.

4



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