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217 Oak Ridge Circle
Staunton, VA 24401-3511, U.S.A.
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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (9.2.19)

Author (as it should appear on the book): Ann Murdy

Title: *On the Path of Marigolds*

Subtitle: *Living Traditions of Mexico's Day of the Dead* (English/Spanish bilingual edition)

Contributors: essay by Denise Chávez and interview with Cesáreo Moreno

Partner:

Book pages: 176

Number and type of illustrations: 90 4-color plates

Trim size: 11.5 x 10.0 inches upright/portrait

List price: \$45.00

Discount: Trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-72-4

ISBNs (electronic): n/a

Edition: Hardcover/PLC

Jacket: Yes

E-book? Not now.

Interactive e-book? No.

Edition size: 1,500

Publication date: 31 October 2019 (in time for a major opening at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago on November 7)

Advances due: 1 September 2019

To warehouse: 1 October 2019

Printed in: Canada

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Photography/Mexico/Cultural Studies

Audience: General readers interested in the Day of the Dead (a major cultural event in all Spanish-speaking countries and U.S.), Mexican culture, and fine-art photography

Selling points (list three): (1) The fact that the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago is hosting the book's launch on November 7, with a major program, speaks volumes to the importance of this book; (2) the Day of the Dead is a huge cultural even in the U.S., Mexico, and other Spanish-speaking countries; (3) the book's photographs are stunning, and the essay and interview are by leading experts.

Tagline: One of the most enduring portrayals of Mexico's famous Day of the Dead ceremony!

Description of the work:

Ann Murdy has been photographing the celebrations around Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) in México for more than twenty years. A native of southern California and now based in Santa Fe, New Mexico, she first started collecting Chicano art during the 1990s and was drawn to México by the vibrancy of its culture and traditions. She loved the rich color she found everywhere, from the brilliant hues of the flowers adorning the *ofrendas* or altars to the dead to the dusky yellow of the marigolds lining the *ofrendas* and the pathways to them, whether in private homes or cemeteries.

As her hauntingly beautiful images show, in México death is considered a part of life, something to be celebrated, not feared. El día de los muertos is a time to gather with friends and families to feast, pray, dance, sing, and honor the lives of those who have died. This unforgettable book features ninety of Murdy's most stunning images of celebrations from three rural villages—Teotitlán del Valle in Oaxaca, Huaquechula in Puebla, and Lake Pátzcuaro in Michoacán—along with a conversation between her and Cesaréo Moreno, Director of Visual Arts and Chief Curator of the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, and an essay by Mexican-American writer Denise Chávez, whose work celebrates the border corridor of southern New Mexico, West Texas, and northern Mexico.

Blurbs:

“Ann Murdy looks at worlds rarely seen and peoples rarely photographed, and we are all the better for it. She has dedicated her life and her considerable talents to showing us the ceremonies and devotions of the people of rural México. She brings a caring and sensitive lens to her subjects; she holds an honest mirror to their devotions. This is very important work not just for now, but for years and centuries to come.”

—Steve Northup, former photographer for UPI, *The Washington Post*, and *TIME* Magazine

“Ann Murdy's photographs delight the sense of sight and are also a virtual ‘scratch and sniff’ of Day of the Dead traditions across México. One enjoys the tempting scents of fresh-baked *pan de muerto* breads and tortillas, sweet and savory *mole*, as well as potent wafts of *copal* incense and pungent *cempasuchitl* flowers. *On the Path of Marigolds* takes the armchair visitor not only to public spheres in markets and cemeteries, but deep within personal and profoundly moving familiar rituals that take place in private homes. The depth of Murdy's works is sure to enlighten for years to come.”

—Rebecca D. Meyers, Permanent Collection Curator, National Museum of Mexican Art

“Ann Murdy, having traveled to the same communities in México for more than twenty years, offers readers an intimate glimpse into the Day of the Dead traditions. Her striking photographs document the varied aesthetics and spiritual practices of three different villages with sensitivity and skill. Through her images, she shares her own quest to understand better and foster appreciation for these age-old traditions and their contemporary expressions.”

—Joyce Ice, Ph.D., Former Director, Museum of International Folk Art

“Ann Murdy’s images are a unique portal into one of México’s most emotional and compelling events. . . . Viva!”

—Ray Dewey, Founder of Dewey Galleries

“*On the Path of Marigolds* is an intimate look at how people honor those who passed on in villages of México. Every photograph has a story reaching back centuries.”

—Tom Aageson, former Executive Director of the Museum of New Mexico Foundation

About the Author:

Ann Murdy is a photographer based in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Her work has been shown at the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, CA, the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, IL, the California Heritage Museum in Santa Monica, CA, and Museo Chicano in Phoenix, AZ , among others.

About the Contributors:

Denise Chávez is a performance artist, novelist, and teacher whose work celebrates the border corridor of southern New Mexico, West Texas, and northern Mexico. Her novel, *Face of an Angel* (1994), won the American Book Award, and her book, *The King and Queen of Comezón* (2014), won the 2015 International Latino Book Award and New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for fiction.

Cesáreo Moreno has been the visual arts director of the National Museum of Mexican Art since 1995 and was named the museum’s first full-time curator in 2004. Moreno has conducted research on the Mexican holdings of museums throughout Mexico and the U.S. He has curated and/or coordinated numerous exhibitions and served as a juror and panelist for numerous groups including the National Endowment for the Humanities, Illinois Arts Council, and Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs.