





Day of the Dead candelabra

Izucar de Matamoras, Puebla, Mexico

Alfonso Castillo Orta, ca. 1980-1989. PM 993-24-20/27396

Gift of Alice B. Melvin, in celebration of donor's father and mother, Professor A. Gordon Melvin and Lorna Strong Melvin, donor's sister, Mary Melvin Petronella, family friend, Luis Herrera Garcia, friend, Richard Paul Baydin, and donor's cats, Miss Amiga, Sir Minky, and Pyewacket.

© President and Fellows of Harvard College, Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology

Object on display at the Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology in the [Encounters With the Americas](#) gallery

Puebla artist Alfonso Castillo Orta (1944–2009) created this colorful *Árbol de la Vida* (Tree of Life) candelabra, which features *Día de los Muertos* (Day of the Dead) skeletal figures, including a *Catrina*, as well as bird and floral elements. Orta was best known for his elaborate candelabras, which were formed by hand and painted using natural pigments. Today, Orta's family continues to produce work in the style that he created.

Harvard Museums of Science & Culture (HMSC) is a partnership of four Harvard museums that present captivating programming for all ages and a dynamic array of permanent and changing exhibits. HMSC invites you to connect with Harvard University's distinctive collections and vital research on human civilizations, biodiversity, and the history of Earth and science.

Share your creations with us on social media **#ColorOurCollections** and **#HMSCconnects**

Continue exploring our museums:

[HMSC connects!](#)

[Collection of Historical Scientific Instruments](#)

[Harvard Museum of the Ancient Near East](#)

[Harvard Museum of Natural History](#)

[Peabody Museum of Archaeology & Ethnology](#)

HMSC HARVARD MUSEUMS OF SCIENCE & CULTURE

Copyright © 2020 The President and Fellows of Harvard College