Day of the Dead candelabra
Izucar de Matamoros, Puebla, Mexico
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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 Árbole de la Vida (Tree of Life) candelabra, which features Dia 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.

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