

From: **GINA SANTI PHOTOGRAPHY** gina@ginasantiphotography.com
Subject: IMAGES OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER 2016
Date: October 1, 2016 at 8:00 AM
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Gina Santi Photography

Images of the Month – October, 2016

[*A Spooky Story*](#) [*Un Cuento de Miedo*](#) [*Give Color to Your Life*](#)
[*Face Off*](#) [*2017 Calendars*](#) [*Curatorship*](#) [*Solo Exhibit at Olney's*](#)



I am going to tell you a story about a recent boat journey I took through the maze-like canals of Xochimilco in Mexico City. It was a gorgeous day and at first we were encircled by thriving vegetation and stunning singing birds. Soon, however, our boat was held up by a mass of lily pads and the canal fell gloomily silent. At the end of the two-hour journey the boat turned along a curve in the waterway and I was hit by a surreal apparition of hundreds, maybe thousands, of dolls strung up from trees on this little island... The Island of Dolls.

We reached a frightening clearing deep in the forest where thousands of mutilated dolls hang from the trees and take cover among the impenetrable branches. They were placed there by a Mexican man, Julian Santana, who believed they would pacify the distressed spirit of a small girl who drowned there in 1950.

Santana discovered the girl's dead body floating in the canal and blamed himself for not being able to prevent her death. He later came across a doll drifting in the same waters and, thinking it belonged to the defunct girl, hung it from a tree as a sign of veneration. From that point on, Santana began to overhear whispers, footsteps, and the distressed howls of a woman in the night even though his shack was miles away from town. Fear forced him to hang hundreds of dolls – some missing body parts– from the trees and from the wire fence which encircled his cabin to protect himself from the girls' spirit. He spent the next 50 years 'embellishing' the surroundings in a determined attempt to soothe her. Santana died in 2001 of a heart attack, drowned in the same canal where he found the dead girl. After his death, the area became a pilgrimage site where visitors keep bringing more dolls. The locals describe the place as 'magical' – not ghostly – even though visitors maintain that the dolls speak softly to them. It is one of the creepiest places I've ever visited, perfect for spending this Hallows' Eve. I dare you to do it.

Les voy a contar una historia acerca de un reciente viaje en *trajinera* (así llaman a los botes por aquí) que tomé a través de los canales laberínticos de Xochimilco en la Ciudad de México. Era un día precioso y al principio estuvimos rodeados por la vegetación y las impresionantes aves cantoras. Pronto, sin embargo, nuestra trajinera se vio retenida por una masa de hojas de nenúfar y el canal se vistió de una tristeza silenciosa. Al final del viaje de dos horas, la trajinera navegó a lo largo de una curva y se me presentó una aparición surrealista de cientos, quizás miles, de muñecas colgadas de los árboles en esta pequeña isla ... La Isla de las Muñecas.

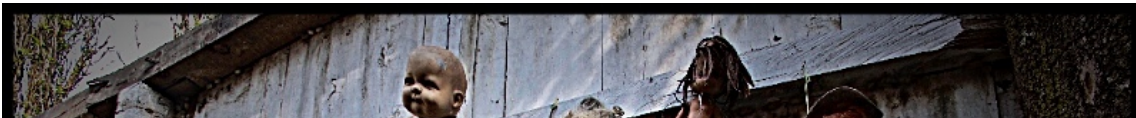
Llegamos a un claro aterrador en lo profundo del bosque donde miles de muñecas mutiladas cuelgan de los árboles y se esconden entre las impenetrables ramas. Ellas fueron colocadas allí por un mexicano, Julián Santana, con el fin de apaciguar el espíritu angustiado de una pequeña niña que murió allí en 1950.

Santana descubrió el cadáver de la niña flotando en el canal y se culpó a sí mismo por no ser capaz de evitar su muerte. Más tarde se encontró con una

muñeca a la deriva en las mismas aguas y, pensando que pertenecía a la chica desaparecida, la colgó de un árbol como signo de veneración.

Desde ese momento Santana comenzó a escuchar susurros y pasos y los lamentos desesperados de una mujer en medio de la noche, aún cuando su cabaña estaba muy lejos del pueblo. El miedo lo obligó a colgar cientos de muñecas –algunas mutiladas– entre los árboles y en la cerca de alambre que rodeaba su cabaña para protegerse del espíritu de la niña. Pasó los siguientes 50 años de su vida “embelleciendo” los alrededores en un intento desesperado de calmarla. Santana murió en 2001 de un ataque cardíaco, en el mismo canal donde años atrás había encontrado a la niña muerta.

Después de su muerte, el área se convirtió en un lugar de peregrinación donde los visitantes todavía siguen trayendo más muñecas. Los locales describen la isla como "mágica" –no fantasmal– a pesar de que sostienen que las muñecas les hablan en voz baja. Es uno de los lugares más espeluznantes que he visitado, ideal para pasar esta Noche de Brujas. Te reto a que lo hagas.







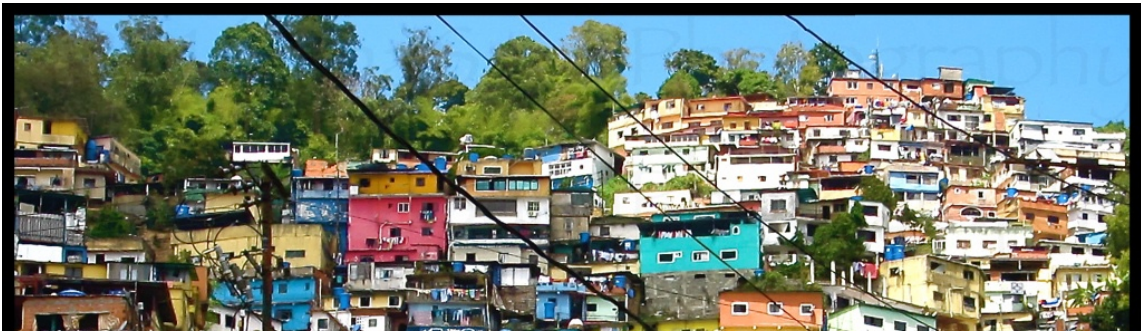
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On a much lighter note... These are heady times at Casa GSP!



The image to the right, *Colombian Accordion*, along with the three images below - *Texting in Guatemala*, *Blue Wayuu Woman*, and *Color in Architecture*- were selected for Herberger Art Gallery's Exhibit "Give Color to Your Life", curated by Oliverio Balcells. The exhibit will end this coming Monday, October 3.

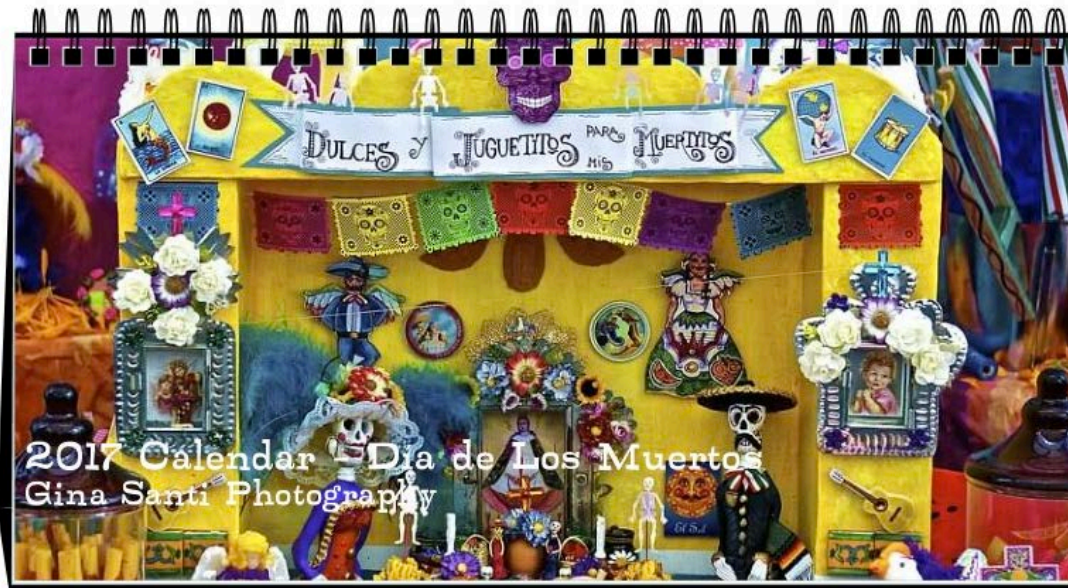




The image to the left, *Ready for the Parade*, captured in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico during the city's Patron Saint festivities, was selected for the exhibit "Face Off" at the Herberger Art Gallery in Phoenix. Curated by Sarah Kriehn and Kathy Taylor. October 7, 2016 to January 1, 2017.

Gina Santi Photography's Legendary Desk Calendars for 2017 are still available. Order now to ensure delivery by the Holidays, it's never too early to start thinking about that one-of-a-kind present for your special friends, family, and VIP customers! 13 first quality photographic images (12 months, January 2017 to December 2017 plus cover) of the religious holiday "Day of the Dead" - "Día de los Muertos", celebrated mainly in Meso-America and in

many areas of the United States. For a full description and ordering details please click [here](#).



FEATURED ARTISTS

- Anne Allemann
- Mary Nellie Brown
- Mary Bruns
- Maggie Byrnes
- Karen Carraro
- Corvella Carroll
- Maryanne Chabolin
- Paula Cullison
- Joside Davidson
- Diane Fairfield
- Manuel Fontes
- Robin Parker Garcia
- Norma Garcia-Torres
- Larry Mangino
- Elizabeth Meltzer
- Jana Peterson
- Sharon Peterson
- Deborah Silvis
- Hazel Stone
- Nancy Uttech
- Ashley Walden
- Kim Walker
- Sandra Neumann Wilderman
- Mark Woehle

HERBERGER
THEATRE SOCIETY
ART GALLERY

**ART as a
MEANS
of Expression
to Reinforce
IDENTITY**

Desert Flowers by Norma Garcia-Torres

Special Herberger Theater Art Exhibit
Guest Curator: Gina Santi

Free Opening Reception
Thursday, October 13, 2016
5:30 - 7:00pm
University Club
39 E. Monte Vista / Phoenix

Meet the artists, enjoy light hors d'oeuvres
and music by String Serenade.

GSP had the honor and the privilege to conceive and curate the exhibit "Art as a Means of Expression to Reinforce Identity". Participants were selected not only for the quality of execution of their submissions, but also for their statements about what their art means to their identity as individuals. This was an extremely rewarding challenge for GSP as an artist and as a visual anthropologist!

Artwork on display and available for purchase through November 30, 2016.
Exhibit open to the public weekdays 9-11am and 1-5pm,
and viewable online at www.herbergertheater.org
A portion of each purchase benefits the Herberger Theater's Youth Outreach Programs.
RSVP at 602-254-7399, ext. 105 or Laustin@herbergertheater.org.



Olney Gallery at Trinity Cathedral shared their event.

September 23 at 9:13am · 🌐

October First Friday 6pm-9pm

Experience Venezuelan Culture through the photography of **Gina Santi**!



OCT **The Dancing Devils of Yare - Gina Santi ...**

7

Fri 6 PM · Phoenix

29 people interested · 13 people going

✓ Going ▾

The Dancing Devils of Yare is the name of a religious festival representing the victory of good over evil. It has been celebrated in Venezuela, since the 18th century. Artist Gina Santi along with being a gifted photographer has a background in cultural anthropology. This talent and knowledge has helped her capture this cultural festival in a way that makes the viewer feel like they are there in person.

WHERE: Olney Gallery at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

100 W. Roosevelt St. Phoenix, AZ 85003

(Free Parking Garage available for guests!)

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 9am-4pm

WHEN: September 30th– Oct 26th, 2016. Opening Reception October 7, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

For more information about these images, including how to add them to your fine art collection,

please contact

Gina@GinaSantiPhotography.com



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