

What are *Calveras*?



Calavera can be drawings, paper masks, plaster, face painting and sugar skulls.

Calavera are often female because in Mexico death is represented as a woman and sometimes called "**Catrina**"

Calaveras (skulls) are probably the most recognizable emblems of the Day of the Dead. Calaveras are whimsical caricatures and often depicted in humorous scenes.



La Catrina



This tall female skeleton wearing a fancy hat with feathers is **La Catrina** from the work of artist José Guadalupe Posada, political cartoonist.

This **calveras** is a caricature of a wealthy woman who mocks anyone who takes materialistic pleasures too seriously and abandons Mexican culture for European values.

Calaveritas de azúcar

Calaveritas de azúcar or sugar skulls are a key part of celebrations. A blend of Aztec roots and Spanish conquering influence, sugar skull art is joyous - not scary!

The people could not afford the new Catholic iconography, but sugar was plentiful. Combined with colourful icing and recycled tin the skulls can represent a departed soul, often with their name written on the forehead and was placed on the **ofrenda** or gravestone to honor the return of a loved one's spirit.

