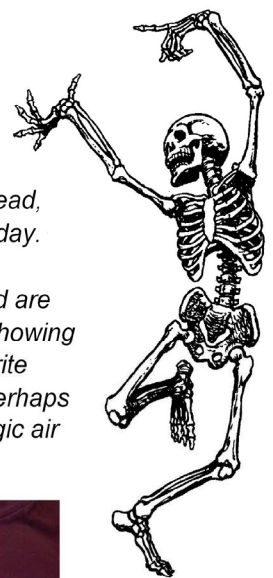
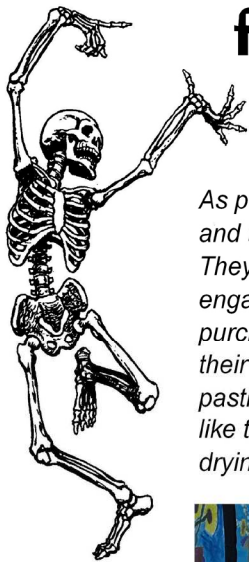


Calacas -- Skeleton Figurines for the Mexican Days of the Dead

8th grade multicultural integrated language arts/art class
Heritage Middle School, Westerville OH, November 2003



As part of their Hispanic Culture unit students learned about the Mexican Days of the Dead, and the misconceptions many Americans have about the meaning of this important holiday. They each were to create their own miniature calacas -- scenes using skeleton figures engaged in everyday activities. In Mexico these are often whimsical and humorous, and are purchased to place on family altars to remind people of loved ones who have died, by showing their occupations or hobbies. Students were to model their scene, if possible, on a favorite pastime of a relative who had died, or on a favorite hobby of their own (as they would perhaps like to be remembered). The skeleton figures were made from white Crayola Model Magic air drying foam clay, decorated with markers, paints and objects brought in from home.



It took students some getting used to working on such a small scale, (3 1/2" x 5" boxes) but the results were worth the effort!

Hyla Skudder -- Guest Artist



