



## Nasher Sculpture Center Announces Installation of *Plegaria Muda*, a Major Work by Inaugural Nasher Prize Laureate Doris Salcedo

Large-scale piece highlights Salcedo's powerful commitment to memorializing victims of violence

DALLAS, Texas (January 25, 2016)— In honor of Doris Salcedo's designation as the inaugural Nasher Prize Laureate, the Nasher Sculpture Center presents an installation of her 2008–10 work *Plegaria Muda* which will be on view from February 27–April 17, 2016. *Plegaria Muda* (in loose translation, “silent prayer”) consists of long, narrow wooden tables that have been covered with a thick layer of earth held in place by a table of the same size and type turned atop it. In places, bright green blades of grass push their way through the overturned tabletop, into the light. These objects—some thirty in the Nasher's installation—are arrayed by the artist in an irregular, mazelike grid, the narrow spaces of which the viewer traverses to experience the work as a whole. The size and proportion of the tables approximate the human body; their wooden forms remind one inescapably of coffins, and the earth interred in them in turn suggests the soil displaced from a freshly dug grave. Walking among the tables creates the impression of being in the midst of a cemetery, a place of mourning, memory, and reflection.

“We are very proud to present this important work by Doris Salcedo in celebration of her receipt of the inaugural Nasher Prize,” says Director Jeremy Strick. “*Plegaria Muda* brings together so many of the formal and conceptual hallmarks of Salcedo's work—material ingenuity met with a deep and stalwart sympathy for human suffering—that have made Salcedo such a formative presence within contemporary sculptural practice, and we are delighted to share it with visitors to the Nasher.”

Salcedo's impetus for the creation of *Plegaria Muda* came from a trip she made to Los Angeles in 2004, researching reports that more than 10,000 young people had been killed on the streets of L.A. in the past two decades. She spent time in the city's southeast neighborhoods, researching the toll of gang violence on families and pondering the effects of such violence on those whose impoverished living conditions were already precarious, creating situations which Salcedo has described as “social death” or “death in life.” But while her time in Los Angeles was an impetus to Salcedo's creation of *Plegaria Muda*, the work itself was also her response to the murder of some 2,500 young people in Colombia between 2003 and 2009 by the Colombian army. Salcedo accompanied a group of mothers searching for their “disappeared” sons, who were found in mass graves. The sons' abandonment in these unmarked, desolate places and the mothers' process of identifying them from remains and personal effects converge in Salcedo's creation of a place of witnessing and mourning; she has explained: “Colombia—the country of the unburied dead—has hundreds of unidentified mass graves where the dead remain nameless. For this very reason, I inscribed the image of the grave within this piece, creating a space for remembrance, a graveyard that opens up a space for each body.”

**For more information on the Nasher Prize and Doris Salcedo, please visit:**  
<http://www.nashersculpturecenter.org/art/nasher-prize>

**High resolution images available upon request.**

# Nasher Sculpture Center

PRESS RELEASE



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**About the Nasher Sculpture Center:** Located in the heart of the Dallas Arts District, the Nasher Sculpture Center is home to the Raymond and Patsy Nasher Collection, one of the finest collections of modern and contemporary sculpture in the world. The longtime dream of the late Raymond and Patsy Nasher, the museum was designed by world-renowned architect Renzo Piano, in collaboration with landscape architect Peter Walker, to seamlessly integrate the indoor galleries with the outdoor garden spaces, creating a museum experience unlike any other in the world. In addition to gallery spaces, the Center contains an auditorium, education and research facilities, a cafe, and an award-winning store.

On view in the light-filled galleries and amid the garden grounds are rotating works from the Collection, which features more than 300 masterpieces by Calder, Giacometti, Matisse, Picasso, Rodin, and many more modern masters, as well as rotating installations by celebrated and emerging contemporary artists. In dialogue with the Collection and special exhibitions, the Nasher also offers an elevated series of special programs, including artist talks, lecture programs, contemporary chamber music concerts, artist-led classes, and exclusive member events, all meant to enrich the museum experience and highlight the Center as a catalyst for the study, installation, conservation and appreciation of modern and contemporary sculpture.

**Location:** 2001 Flora Street, Dallas TX 75201

**Hours:** The Nasher Sculpture Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm and from 10 am to 5 pm on the first Saturday of each month.

**Admission:** \$10 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for students, and free for members and children 12 and under, and includes access to special exhibitions.

For more information, visit [www.NasherSculptureCenter.org](http://www.NasherSculptureCenter.org).

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