

JAIME GUERRERO

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Visuals available upon request

Guerrero pays tribute to ancient craftsmen at Skidmore Contemporary Art

Blown and sculpted glass offers a modern take on some of Mesoamerica's prized artifacts

May 1, 2017, Los Angeles, CA – Contemporary artist [Jaime Guerrero](#) uses blown and sculpted glass to pay homage to ancient Mesoamerican artisans. His feature exhibition titled [Contemporary Relics: A Tribute to the Makers](#) can be seen at **Skidmore Contemporary Art** at Bergamot Station in Santa Monica, September 9 thru October 28, 2017. The opening reception will be held Saturday, September 16th from 5-7pm. The exhibit coincides with [Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA](#), a Getty initiative that highlights Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles.

Guerrero transforms the modern gallery space of white walls and concrete into an archeological site, whereby we get a glimpse into ancient Mesoamerican culture and ritual. The centerpiece of his exhibit is a re-creation of an Olmec offering at La Venta (present-day Tabasco, Mexico). The installation consists of six monoliths/celts and sixteen figurines, which he displays upright atop a bed of sand as if it were the actual burial site, in the fashion it was excavated. This tribute along with the other figures, masks and even a colossal Olmec head on display takes the viewer back a few thousand years to an age where ceremony and ritual were of the utmost importance for this life and the next.

Guerrero resurrects the work of these ancient craftsmen, reinventing a lost art in order to pay tribute to the makers. "I make this work because it reveals aspects of who I am," notes Guerrero. He recreates these noteworthy pieces using blown and sculpted glass but does so to reflect the original materials and craft. Guerrero uses advanced color applications on the blown and sculpted glass to achieve similarity to what was initially formed of jade, serpentine, greenstone, basalt and other minerals and stones. Gallery owner Lia Skidmore notes: "Jaime explores a mythical world in which he becomes hyper-observant to an aesthetic, stylistic, and iconographic worldview. Through the process of reproducing idols in an entirely new medium, Jaime adds a fresh and modern perspective to Mesoamerican craft."

Guerrero was born in 1974 in Los Angeles, California. He began his career at California College of Arts and Crafts in 1994. Although Guerrero mostly focuses on glass sculpture he considers himself a mix media artist. Guerrero has studied with Masters Checco Ongaro, Pino Signoretto, and Ben Moore. He attended Pilchuck School of Glass and was nominated for the Corning Award. Guerrero was a featured artist in the *Mastercraft* show at Gumps in San Francisco for five consecutive years. He received two Saxe Fellowship Awards (2006/2012) and the People's Choice Award (2012) from the Bay Area Glass Institute for his work "Charros y Sus Caballos". This work was later purchased by the Oakland Museum of California for its permanent collection. Guerrero has been featured in several publications, including *Glass Quarterly* (Spring 2014). He uses glass, a nearly untouched medium in the fine art world to look at

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ancient cultures and their art making processes to challenge contemporary modalities. Guerrero volunteers his time and offers free glass blowing classes to youth in underserved communities as a way to give back. www.guerrerglass.com

Skidmore Contemporary Art, a gallery which opened its doors nearly 20 years ago, offers an exhibition program that showcases a wide array of contemporary artists. In addition, the gallery provides art advisory services and art market analysis to collectors. www.skidmorecontemporaryart.com

Exhibition Opening Reception: **Saturday, September 16, 5pm - 7pm**

Skidmore Contemporary Art Location: Bergamot Station, 2525 Michigan Avenue, B-4
Santa Monica, CA 90404

Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11am - 5pm

Admission: Free

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