



SIMON BREITBARD
FINE ARTS

JAMI PORTER-LARA

Albuquerque-based artist Jami Porter-Lara uses a 2000-year-old process to make objects that resemble a ubiquitous icon of modern life—the plastic bottle. While exploring a remote stretch of the U.S./Mexico border, Porter-Lara found two-liter bottles used to carry water—the most recent in a lineage of artifacts that remain from millennia of human travel through the region. Using these found objects as her source, she re-conceptualizes the plastic bottle as a precious object—a vessel—capable of sustaining human life. Porter-Lara's art blurs the borders between art and rubbish. By pulling the plastic bottle away from the negative associations with trash, and towards what we perceive to be beautiful or natural or sacred, she hopes that human beings can find some forgiveness for ourselves and the things that we make.

Porter-Lara's process consists of little more than mud and fire. She harvests clay from a site near her home, and then soaks, strains and dries it. Each vessel is built by hand from coils of clay, polished to a high sheen with a stone, and pit-fired in her front yard. She does not use a wheel, kiln, or glazes. Born in 1969 in Spokane, Washington, Porter-Lara has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 1980. Rejecting the notion that humanity is the opponent of nature, Porter-Lara is a conceptual artist whose approach to making art remains deeply tied to her concern with cultural inheritances and with being a citizen of the natural world. Her work is widely collected and has been featured in *American Art Collector Magazine*, *Hyperallergic*, and on PBS stations nationwide. Recent exhibitions include the Albuquerque Museum of Art and Art History; the Center for Land Use Interpretation in Wendover, Utah; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; and the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Storyteller, Center for Contemporary Craft, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017 In Situ, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM
Border Crossing, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 Alcoves, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
Unhyphenated, Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM
- 2015 Public Selects, Albuquerque Museum of Art, NM
BAKE/SALiEnt, Axle Contemporary, Santa Fe, NM
- 2014 New Works, Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM
- 2013 InterMidden, 5G Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Melting Point: Movements in Contemporary Clay, Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA (opens January 2018)
The US-Mexico Border: Place, Imagination, and Possibility, Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, NM (opens January 2018)
Making (In)Visible: Exploring Race and Place in NM, National Hispanic Cultural Center Art Museum, Albuquerque, NM (opens May 2018)
Vasa Vasorum, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM (opens June 2018)
- 2017 Contact: Local to Global, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM
The Alchemical Trace, Sanitary Tortilla Factory, Albuquerque, NM
Divergent/Works, Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, NM
- 2016 Black and Blue, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM
Common Ground: Art in New Mexico, Albuquerque Museum of Art, NM
Alchemy, Harwood Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM
- 2014 Prelude, Harwood Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM



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- 2012 Technology and Obsolescence, Rubin Center for the Visual Arts, El Paso, TX
Re:Dream/Scape, Alvarado Urban Farm, Albuquerque, NM
- 2011 In Your Ear, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA
Clean Livin', Center for Land Use Interpretation, Wendover, UT
Land Arts of the American West, SCA Contemporary, Albuquerque, NM
eFMera: A Night of Radio Exhibition, 2nd Street Gallery, Albuquerque, NM

COLLECTIONS

Albuquerque Museum of Art and Art History, Albuquerque, NM
Center for Art + Environment, Nevada Museum of Art, Reno, NV
Fidelity Investments, Boston, MA
National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC

AWARDS

- 2018 Artist in Residence, Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY
- 2016 Artist-in-Residence, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Artist-in-Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 Moving Forward, Looking Back, Pasatiempo, Santa Fe, NM, November 24.
Into the Next Century, Santa Fe Reporter, Santa Fe, NM, November 22.
Modern Artifacts, Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, NM, October 22.
A Map With No Border, THE Magazine, Santa Fe, NM, September.
Acquisitions Marking National Museum of Women in the Arts 30th Anniversary Year,
Culture Type, June 17.
Art Movements, Hyperallergic, May 25.
Clay Vessels Pay Tribute to the Plastic Water Bottle, Hyperallergic, March 5.
Plastic Reimagined, Albuquerque the Magazine, Albuquerque, NM, April.
Top Artists Shaping the Future of Ceramics, CFile, March 7.
Water Bottles as Art, Washington City Paper, Washington DC, March 2.
Can You Name Five Women Artists? Museums Spotlight Women's History Month,
ArtfixDaily, March 2.
These 20 Artists Are Shaping the Future of Ceramics, Artsy, February 23.
Preview: Border Crossing, Brightest Young Things, February 20.
The Accidental Politics of an Exhibition Called "Border Crossing", The Washingtonian,
Washington DC, February 16.
Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara. Women in the Arts Magazine,
Washington DC, Winter/Spring.
Renaissance, Santa Fe Reporter, Santa Fe, NM, February 1.
Exposure, Ceramics Monthly, Westerville, OH, February.
- 2016 Pieza de la Semana: Jami Porter Lara. InfoCeramica, December 28.
Jami Porter Lara Explores the Ubiquity of Plastic Bottles. CFile, December 15.
Arts Plus. Episode 527. West Central Florida PBS. WEDU-TV, Tampa, FL, August 18.
Arts America. Nine Network. KETC-TV, St. Louis, MO, June 25.
Art Loft. South Florida PBS. WPBT2-TV, Miami, FL, June 7
The Arts Page. Episode 432. Milwaukee Public Television. WMVS/WMTV,
Milwaukee, WI, June 9.
Arts District. Episode 425. Rocky Mountain PBS. KRMA-TV, Denver, CO, May 12.
Elevated Art, Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, NM, May 8.
Artworks. Episode 426. Maryland Public Television. WMPB, Baltimore, MD, April 14.



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F I N E A R T S

- Broad and High: Clay Artists. WOSU Public Media. WOSU-TV, Columbus, OH, April 13.
KLRN ARTS. KLRN Television. KLRN, San Antonio, TX, April 12.
Taking on New Life. American Art Collector, April.
LAaRT. PBS SoCal. KOCE-TV, Costa Mesa, CA, March 28.
Driven: The Generative Nature of Food, Art and Community. Edible Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM, Late Winter 2016.
- 2015 Connecting Art and Artifact. American Art Collector, Scottsdale, AZ, August.
Albuquerque Museum Offers 'Crowdsourced' Exhibition. Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, NM, August 9.
iCOLORES!. New Mexico PBS. KNME-TV, Albuquerque, NM May 9.
- 2014 Opening a Gallery in a Contemporary Art Desert, Hyperallergic, October 24.
- 2013 Back to the Land. Mirage Magazine, Albuquerque, NM, Fall 2013.
- 2012 A Visceral Connection to the Land. Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, NM, January 1.
- 2009 Small is Big. Albuquerque Journal, Albuquerque, NM, September 12.

LECTURES/WORKSHOPS

- 2017 Artist Talk, Harwood Museum of Art, Taos, NM, December 9.
Artist Talk: The Alchemical Trace. Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM, November 1.
Panel: Language, Narrative and Identity. Harwood Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM, June 3.
Artist Talk, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington D.C., February 16 & April 6
Lecture: Never Too Late: Becoming an Artist in Mid-Life.
Santa Fe Community Gallery, Santa Fe, NM, February 8.
Artist Talk, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM, January 6.
- 2016 Artist Talk, Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM, May 14.
Workshop: BAKE/lite, University of New Mexico Museum of Art, Albuquerque, NM, April 23.
Lecture: D.N.A./Does Not Authenticate: Art, Artifact, and Identity.
University of New Mexico Museum of Art, Albuquerque, NM, April 7.
Presentation: SFAI 140. Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM, March 27.
- 2015 Lecture: The Value of Your Creative Work. Creative Mornings, Albuquerque, NM, November 20.
Panel: Economics of Environmental Art. 516 Arts, Albuquerque, NM, October 3.
Workshop: Indie Self Promotion 101. Pyragraph's 24 Hours of Art, Albuquerque, NM, September 19.
Workshop: Audience Cultivation. Harwood Center for the Arts, Albuquerque, NM, June 6.
- 2014 Artist Talk, Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM, September 27.

EDUCATION

- 2013 BFA summa cum laude, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque