



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 source, her purpose is to re-conceptualize the plastic bottle to better represent its function as a precious object—a vessel—capable of sustaining human life. And within that purpose, her hope is to illuminate the necessity that feeds ubiquity; to expose the porous nature of “borders” as well as the “nature” of art and rubbish; to record her interest in the permeability of all things human, natural, and technological. By pulling the plastic bottle away from the profane 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. She seeks to provide a space to contemplate both an ethical beauty as well as an ethics of beauty in the face of human need.

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, Jami has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 1980. Rejecting the notion that humanity is the opponent of nature, Jami is a conceptual artist whose approach to making 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. She is represented by Central Features Contemporary Art in Albuquerque and Stephanie Breitbard Fine Arts in San Francisco.

### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

**2017** *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, D.C. (forthcoming Feb 2017)

**2016** *Alcove 16/17.6*, New Mexico Museum of Art, Santa Fe, NM (forthcoming Dec 2016)  
*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

**2016** *Black and Blue*, Peters Projects, Santa Fe, NM



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*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  
**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

**AWARDS**

**2016** Artist-in-Residence, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT  
Artist-in-Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM

**MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS**

**2016** *Border Crossing: Jami Porter Lara*. Women in the Arts Magazine, Washington D.C., Fall.  
*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.  
*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.  
*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**

**2016** Artist Talk, Central Features Contemporary Art, Albuquerque, NM, May 14.



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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