



contemporary craft
news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jami Porter Lara Debuts New Exhibition at Contemporary Craft
Ceramic works that reimagine the common icons of everyday life

PITTSBURGH, PA – January 22, 2018 – *Storyteller*, an exhibition by Albuquerque-based artist Jami Porter Lara, will exhibit handcrafted ceramic objects created using a 2000-year-old pottery process. As one of the 20 Artists Shaping the Future of Ceramics named by Artsy in 2017, Porter Lara’s exhibiting artwork resembles the ubiquitous icon of modern life - the plastic bottle. *Storyteller* will be on view at Contemporary Craft’s BNY Mellon Satellite Gallery, located in downtown Pittsburgh’s Steel Plaza T-Station from February 16 to May 6, 2018.

While exploring a remote stretch of the United States and Mexico border, Porter Lara found two-liter bottles used to carry water as the most recent artifacts of its lineage from millennia of human travel through the region. Through her recent work in *Storyteller*, Porter Lara contemplates the plastic bottle as both contemporary artifact and microcosm of human values. By pulling this object away from the profane and towards what may be perceived as beautiful or natural or sacred, Porter Lara asks the visitors to recognize the plastic bottle as it belongs to the long human history of functional vessels that are used to contain and transport the necessities of life. Porter Lara’s work and interests span humanity, nature, technology, and the crossroads that bind these themes together. Through her work, visitors can see the human creativity that gave rise to the design of a plastic bottle and recognize its qualities of beauty and interest exist alongside everything else that is bad, absurd, ugly, and unsustainable. The exhibition is free and open to the public daily through midnight.

Storyteller will be shown in conjunction with the 2018 National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) conference being held in Pittsburgh from March 14 – 17. For more information and high-res photos of *Storyteller*, please contact Stephanie Sun at ssun@contemporarycraft.org or at 412.261.7003.

ABOUT JAMI PORTER LARA

Born in 1969 in Spokane, Washington, Porter Lara has lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico since 1980. Rejecting the notion of humanity as the opponent of nature, Porter Lara is a conceptual artist whose approach to making remains deeply tied to her concern with cultural inheritances and with becoming a citizen of the natural world. In 2017, Artsy named her one of 20 Artists Shaping the Future of Ceramics. Her work is widely collected in public and private collections, and has been featured in American Art Collector, Art 21 Magazine, CFile, Hyperallergic, and on PBS. Recent exhibitions include the National Museum of Women in the Arts, the New Mexico Museum of Art in Santa Fe, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON EDUCATION FOR THE CERAMIC ARTS

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) promotes and improves the ceramic arts through education, community building, research, and creative inspiration. NCECA offers programs, events, and publications to support its membership of artists, students, individual and corporate patrons, gallery owners, museum curators and providers of ceramic arts-related products and services. As a dynamic, member-driven organization, NCECA is flexible in its program development, international in its perspective and responsive to the changing needs of its constituency. The 52nd Annual Conference of NCECA will take place March 14 – 17, 2018 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. *CrossCurrents: Clay and Culture*, our theme for NCECA's 2018 conference reflects Pittsburgh as a city of rivers, bridges, complex immigrant history, gritty perseverance, and reinvention.

ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CRAFT

Presenting contemporary art in craft mediums by regional, national, and international artists since 1971, Contemporary Craft (CC) offers cutting edge exhibitions focusing on multicultural diversity and non-mainstream art, as well as a range of studio workshops, community outreach programs, and a retail store. Through its mission of engaging the public in creative experiences through contemporary craft, CC offers meaningful art opportunities for 145,000 people a year through four core values: providing vital support for artists, filling critical gaps in public education; sharing cross cultural perspectives; and using art to build community.

CC is located at 2100 Smallman Street in the Strip District of Pittsburgh, PA. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. Exhibition and informal, hands-on art activities in the Drop-In Studio are always free to the public. Contemporary Craft is committed to making its exhibitions, programs, and services accessible to the public. For questions related to accessible accommodations, please contact us. For more information, visit <http://www.contemporarycraft.org> or call 412.261.7003.

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