



Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
2014-2015: Celebrating 25 years of Innovative Latino Arts & Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contacts

Anjee Helstrup-Alvarez

Executive Director

(408) 998-2783 x31 | anjee@maclaarte.org

Joey Reyes

Curator of Engagement & Dialogue

(408) 998 2783 x 23 | joey@maclaarte.org

Press images: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/120981565@N06/sets/72157653111237172>

BREAKING POINT

Glass works by Jaime Guerrero and Viviana Paredes



Calendar Listing

Breaking Point: Glass works by Jaime Guerrero and Viviana Paredes

Location: MACLA, 510 South 1st Street, San José, CA 95113

Dates: June 5 - August 8, 2015

Opening Night/Artist Talks: South First Fridays, June 5, 2015, 7:00 pm

Gallery Hours: Wed. & Thurs., 12–7pm; Fri. & Sat., 12–5pm; and, by appointment

Tickets: Free

Website: <http://www.maclaarte.org/visual-arts>

May 18, 2015 (San José, CA)—MACLA/ Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana closes its 2014-15 season with BREAKING POINT, glass art works by award-winning Bay Area artists Jaime Guerrero and Viviana Paredes.

Glass, a medium valued for its visual and tactile qualities, is used inventively by these artists to provide clarity on contemporary social issues. Guerrero and Paredes use glass as a vehicle to explore and critique issues as diverse as the effects of over-hunting to the extinction of dialects and cultural customs. Though MACLA has previously exhibited these artists as well as other artists who work with glass, this is its first exhibition dedicated solely to the medium. Focused in



Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
2014-2015: Celebrating 25 years of Innovative Latino Arts & Culture

scope, it illustrates the emergence of glass as a key medium in terms of visual activism and its journey from purely decorative art. *Breaking Point* coincides with the Glass Art Society (GAS) Conference taking place June 5-7 in San Jose.

The exhibition will also include a collaboration with students in MACLA's [DMC Studio](#) and San Francisco's [Public Glass / Light A Spark](#) youth program; the collaboration is a site-specific interactive installation combining glass and digital media, on display at DMC Studio from June 5-7.

About the Work and Artists

Jaime Guerrero: The Fragility of Childhood and Ritual

Cervidae: Open Season is a new body of work consisting of large-scale sculpted glass deer heads and antlers. Guerrero draws from his recollections of deer hunting with his family—a rite of passage from his childhood—to produce this glass installation at MACLA. Trophy animal heads make reference to elements of honor, pride, and conquest. Such ritualized objects celebrate the hunt and promote the ideal of man over nature, mainly through the trope of masculinity. In these pieces, Jaime Guerrero subverts the violent, destructive, and powerful characteristics of hunting by creating fragile glass trophy heads. These heads are not life-like masks of formerly living creatures, but rather a reminder of the creative and fragile properties of life. As the artist states, “*The trophy room concept comes from a childhood memory of going hunting as a young boy with cousins and uncles. Looking back I realized this was a rite of passage for me, being initiated into adulthood: the ritual of the hunt, the stories, the bonding. It was also the first time I shot a gun. In retrospect, I question this ritual that has existed hundreds of years as a male rite of passage. Are these rituals borne from a need to survive? Or do these rituals train us as young men to be dominant over nature? And if so, how much does it contribute to environmental degradation?*”

Jaime Guerrero was born in Los Angeles and received his BFA from the California College of the Arts. He studied with master artists including Checco Ongaro, Pino Signoretto, and Ben Moore. In 2006 and 2012, he received the Saxe Fellowship Award through the Bay Area Glass Institute for Outstanding Artistic Achievement. Recognized for his unique use of color and his versatility in both sculpture and craft, his work is influenced by the everyday things humans take for granted, the rituals we create from our routines, and the historical artifacts that inform and influence our perception. www.guerreroerglass.com

Viviana Paredes: Revising History

Viviana Paredes' body of work has illustrated the complex relationships between ancestral foods and agriculture, the extinction of local languages, and ancient rituals performed to protect the environment. Greatly influenced by her grandmother, who was an experienced healer, and ethno-botany (the study of physical and spiritual human relationships to the plant world), her site-specific works raise questions about spiritual and cultural life as it relates to nature. In *Breaking Point*, she tackles the iconic *maguey* (agave), its mythology, and its many uses. Found throughout the Americas, the *maguey* has provided humans with food, medicine and shelter for thousands of years. It has also long been an iconic plant in Mexican culture, its form inspiring generations of artists. *The House That Tequila Built*, made from recycled and deconstructed Patrón tequila bottles, speaks to the troubling cultural appropriation of maguey/tequila. *ALMA*, which is both a woman's name and the Spanish word for *soul*, is a piece where the maguey bears witness to and represents the spirit of the many women whose murdered bodies are left alone in the desert borderlands of Mexico. Finally, “Arbol de Son,” made up of three glass



Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana
2014-2015: Celebrating 25 years of Innovative Latino Arts & Culture

quiotes (stalks), honors ancient Mayan trumpets made entirely of maguey stalks, which were used for rituals 800 years before the arrival of Columbus and are still used today.

Viviana Paredes is a Bay Area native born and raised in San José. Paredes graduated from the California College of the Arts with an emphasis on sculpture. Influenced by her grandmother Petra, a native of Chihuahua, México, Paredes was initiated into the ancient tradition of medicinal plants and *curanderismo* (physical and spiritual healing through medicinal plants). Paredes' work has been included in group exhibitions throughout the U.S. and México.

<http://paredesarte.com/>

About the Curator

Jose "Joey" Reyes is Curator of Engagement & Dialogue at MACLA, and was previously its Curatorial Coordinator of Literary, Performance and Visual Programs. Joey has over ten years' experience in museum and gallery management, working in donor development, museum education, volunteer management, youth mentorship and exhibition coordination. For MACLA, he has organized *Voces de Desierto (Voices of the Desert)* featuring Guillermo Galindo and Quinteto Latino; *PLACAS: The Most Dangerous Tattoo*, by Paul S. Flores and featuring Ric Salinas of Culture Clash; and, *City Portraits (Retratos de Ciudad)* a solo exhibition by Marcos ERRE Ramirez. He also serves as MACLA's representative to the National Performance Network and Visual Artist Network. He holds a B.F.A. from San Jose State University. He also studied at Syracuse University's School of the Visual Arts, where he taught a course on drawing and painting fundamentals and recruited internationally recognized artists as guest speakers for the visiting artist program.

About the Exhibition

Breaking Point was organized by MACLA. This program is made possible by SV Creates, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara, a Cultural Affairs grant from the City of San José, the David & Lucile Packard Foundation, the Castellano Family Foundation, the Ford Foundation the Institute of Museum and Library Services, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and MACLA donors.

About MACLA/Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana

MACLA is an inclusive contemporary arts space grounded in the Chicana/o experience that incubates new visual, literary and performance art in order to engage people in civic dialogue and community transformation. MACLA is located at 510 South First Street, San José, CA 95113. For more information about MACLA call (408) 998-ARTE or see www.maclaarte.org.

MACLA celebrates its 25th anniversary with the 2014-2015 season.

Main image: Jaime Guerrero, Antlers (2015), mixed-media

##