

JAMES KELLY CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE
1601 Paseo de Peralta - Santa Fe, NM 87501 - 505.989.1601

Christine McHorse & Diego Romero *Free Spirit*

Opening Reception: Friday, December 17th, 2010, 5:00-7:00 pm
Exhibition Dates: December 17, 2010 - February 09, 2011
Contact: James Jernigan: jernigan@jameskelly.com



Left: Diego Romero, Diana Queen of the Amazon. 2010, earthenware, 13-3/8 x 13-3/8 x 5-3/4 inches.
Right: Christine McHorse, Untitled (with Horns), 2009, micaceneous clay, 27-3/4 x 14-1/4 x 14-1/4 inches.

James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce a two-person exhibition of contemporary sculpture by Christine McHorse & Diego Romero. This will be the first show for each artist with the gallery.

McHorse's work combines the centuries old craft of Navajo and Taos pottery with contemporary design. Originally trained as a

jeweler, she did not start working with ceramics until she moved to the Taos Pueblo with her husband and was taught to make pottery in the traditional way by her mother-in-law. McHorse, a Navajo, isn't originally from the Taos Pueblo thus doesn't feel the pressure to make utilitarian vessels which has led her to experiment and combine Taos and Navajo traditional forms with contemporary influences taken from nature. The micaceous clay that she works in is specific to the Taos Pueblo and its unique properties allow McHorse to make stunning abstract forms with strong thin-walled constructions that are unique to her work.

Romero who is of Cochiti and Anglo descent grew up in both worlds from the San Francisco Bay area to the Cochiti Pueblo. His work is highly influenced by Mimbres pottery, but takes a contemporary view of the Native in Anglo society and the pressures that bear upon them. Romero's pots and jugs are derived from traditional shapes and he often incorporates classic patterns in them but that is where the similarities with other contemporary Native artists end. He is not afraid to depict sensitive issues that are prevalent throughout modern-day Native American societies including, AIDS, alcoholism, the encroachment of the outside world into the Pueblos, and the loss of traditional ways of life.

The exhibition will include several of Romero's new bowls depicting Wonder Woman as *Diana the Queen of the Amazon*. McHorse will be debuting her most ambitious sculpture to date *Untitled with Horns* along with several smaller sculptures.

McHorse's work is included in the permanent collections of the Museum of New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM; The Rockwell Museum of Western Art, Corning, NY; The Denver Museum of Natural History; The Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, D.C.; and the Stedelijk Museum, 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands.

Romero's work is included in the permanent collections of the Institute of American Indian Arts, Santa Fe, NM; The Stedelijk Museum, 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands; The Nelson-Adkins Museum, Kansas City, MO; The National Museum of the American Indian, Washington, D.C.; and the Denver Art Museum, CO.

Both artists will be in attendance for the opening at James Kelly Contemporary, on December 17th from 5-7 pm.

James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours for the duration of this show are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. - Saturday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. - Monday by appointment. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 - fax 505.989.5005 - email jernigan@jameskelly.com for more information.

- high-resolution images available upon request