



SITE Santa Fe Presents
Enrique Martínez Celaya: The Pearl

A Museum-wide Installation that Transforms SITE's Building
into a Contemplative, Reflective Environment

July 13 – October 13, 2013

Members' Preview: Wednesday July 10, 5:30-7pm

Public opening: Friday July 12, 5-7 pm

SITE Santa Fe is pleased to present a new project by Enrique Martínez Celaya entitled *The Pearl*. For this exhibition, Martínez Celaya transforms almost 12,000 square feet of SITE's gallery spaces into an immersive environment that includes painting, sculpture, video, photography, waterwork, sound, and writing, as well as the artist's first musical arrangement. This exhibition integrates and expands many of the elements and ideas that the artist has engaged with over the last several years. In *The Pearl*, the artist takes the notion of home as, both, a point of departure and a destination to craft a visual poem of strong emotional, philosophical and psychological resonance. The structure of the exhibition invites a specific movement through the galleries thus unfolding a multi-layered narrative where objects, images, and references are continuously reconsidered in a similar way that a piece of music, a film, or a novel are revealed in time.

Image: *Enrique Martínez Celaya, The Pearl* in process, Miami studio, 2013, Courtesy of the artist



1606 PASEO DE PERALTA, SANTA FE, NM 87501

In creating *The Pearl*, many materials and ideas come together as Martínez Celaya transforms the entire building into a work of art, whose imagery point to the natural world and the everyday seen through the window of sorrow. But far from being a work of despair, the power of *The Pearl* resides precisely in its ability to reinvent loss as hope and the mundane as the fantastic. The artist has said, "a pearl grows from an irritation, a desire to seal the disturbance, and this a fitting way to look at much of what we do with our life, or to what our life has done with and to us."

The exhibition weaves together, among other things, music, sound, images of pine trees, the ocean and a German Shepherd, an elephant made of jewels, a burnt dining room set, and paintings of the past and the present, to evoke a state of unbearable concreteness as well as fantasy, where brutality, imagination, memory, and longing become different facets of the same experience. The artist wrote, "*The Pearl* is a poem about time, the marker as well as the current of those markers. Like memory, it retrieves and hollows what was, and in doing so, builds and undermines what is. Ostensibly it is made of objects, images, words, and sounds, but it is really written on the dust that was left in rooms long ago left silent. Rooms where the boy I used to be still waits for my return, sitting on a pine-wood chair, his eyes wide open."

Citing aspects of the domestic as well as of the epic, of the small arc of individual histories as well as the big arc of time, the installation unearths memories seemingly left behind, and through this unearthing intimates there are secrets inherent in everything, particularly in the familiar. In *The Pearl*, the concrete becomes the evanescent, a great loss gives way to the fantasy of the survivalist, and what has no remedy is reinvented as something better. For the artist, unresolved memories become the inspiration for a spectacular, enchanted, as well as dangerous, world.

This installation will be accompanied by a documentary film on the making of *The Pearl* by Peter Kirby. The artist is also collaborating with Santa Fe-based Radius Books to produce a book related to the exhibition. SITE hosts an **artist talk and book signing on Tuesday, October 1st, 6pm**. Tickets are \$10/\$5 for students, seniors, and SITE members at Friend/Family level; Free for members at Supporter Level and above. www.sitesantafe.org or call 505.989.1199.

Martínez Celaya's interdisciplinary practice, which encompasses painting, sculpture, photography and writing, is influenced by a wide array of interests including Nordic poetry, samurai mores, quantum physics, the emotional mechanisms of kitsch, analytic and continental philosophy, Latin American literature and everyday life. Martínez Celaya begins with the autobiographical to explore the universal. Although his figures echo archetype-like symbols alluding to larger existential concerns, the artist considers the subject matter the framework of his practice to be constantly evolving.



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Martínez Celaya was trained as an artist and physicist. He earned a BS in Applied & Engineering Physics from Cornell University, a MS in Quantum Electronics from University of California Berkeley and a MFA in Painting from University of California, Santa Barbara. He has had solo exhibitions at the Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg, the Miami Art Museum, the Berliner Philharmonie and the Orange County Museum of Art, among others. His works are included in several private and public collections including those of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Whitney Museum of American Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, and the Moderna Museet, Stockholm. His *Collected Writings and Interviews 1990-2010*, was published by the University of Nebraska Press. Under the imprint Whale and Star Press, Martínez Celaya has published several books on art, poetry, art practice and critical theory.

Enrique Martínez Celaya: The Pearl is organized by Irene Hofmann, Phillips Director and Chief Curator, SITE Santa Fe. The exhibition is made possible through the generous support of the following lead sponsors Karen & Steve Berkowitz; Cornelia Bryer & Herman Siegelaar; Terry Fassburg; Ann & Ron Pizzuti; and Mary Sloane & Andy Wallerstein, with additional support from sponsors Christine & Bill Aylward; Diane & Werner Grob; Nancy Ziegler Nodelman & Dwight Strong; and Marleen De Bode Olivie & Marc Olivie.

There will be a concurrent exhibition, *Concepts and Studies for The Pearl* at James Kelly Contemporary, from July 11-August 17, 2013, with an opening reception on Thursday, July 11, from 5-7 pm. The gallery is located at 550 South Guadalupe Street, in the Railyard District. jameskelly.com

About SITE Santa Fe

SITE Santa Fe is located at 1606 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501. Hours: Thursday and Saturday, 10 AM–5 PM; Friday, 10 AM–7 PM; Sunday, 12 PM–5 PM; closed Monday-Wednesday. Open Wednesdays in July and August. Museum admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students, teachers, and seniors; members are free. Free admission is offered on Fridays, made possible by a grant from The Brown Foundation, Inc., Houston. Tours by SITE Guides are available free of charge to the public. SITE Santa Fe gift certificates are available. Call 505.989.1199 for more information.

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