



Dis/continuity

By Ruben Olguin

A multimedia art exhibition with work by Ruben Olguin

October 5 - November 7, 2015

At Museo Cultural de Santa Fe

555 Camino de la Familia

Santa Fe NM 87501 (On the Railyard)

Tuesday - Friday 1pm - 5pm, Sat. 9am - Noon

Reception Friday, October 16, 5pm - 8pm

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elmuseocultural.org





Dis Continuity

Ruben Olguin explores how land, time and people are divided by technology. When the indigenous lands of New Mexico were colonized by Spanish and American governments, ever increasing subdivisions of land and culture parallel paths of transportation, access to raw materials and ownership. Exposing these lines in the work, Olguin considers how these divisions occurred and what they mean today. Western society compartmentalizes land, ideas and people. The sculptures contrast these divisions through sculptural elements of revived indigenous traditions. These works place concepts of land, access, and cultural adaptation in balance of earth materials and modern technology.

Divisions restrict access to ancient materials giving ownership of cultural rights to disconnected property owners, government lands, and transportation systems. Railroads, highways, royal trails, water diversion channels, and airplanes create interrupting paths of the modern world, subdividing the landscape.

The work traces paths of discontinuity through the history, culture and landscape of New Mexico from first colonial contact through the modern era. Olguin draws from his mixed Pueblo and Spanish heritage to examine the current problems of politicizing cultural heritage through hegemonic american standards. Each work incorporates elements of pre-contact pueblo culture, spanish influence, railroad era and industrial era influences.



Artist Bio

Ruben Olguin is a New Mexico based artist working in ceramics, adobe, sound, video, and electronic media. His work draws from his mixed Pueblo and Spanish heritage. He uses traditional/hand processes for sculpture building and incorporating electronic elements. “My practice focuses spending as much time in the desert as in the computer lab”.

He has exhibited internationally. His full-dome video work has been seen in Jenna, Germany; Miami, FL; Santa Fe, NM, and Albuquerque, NM. He has exhibited sound sculptures in the Albuquerque area and Marfa, TX. He has exhibited work in Currents New Media Festival in Santa Fe and El Paseo Art Festival in Taos.

Olguin is currently finishing his MFA from The University of New Mexico Department of Fine Arts in electronic arts, and holds a B.A. in Media Art from The University of New Mexico. His goals are to make and teach new media art along with socially engaged art practices.