

JAIME GUERRERO

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Media Contact

Jennie Guerrero, Guerrero Glass, LLC
guerreroglass.info@gmail.com, Tel. 716-812-6884

Visuals available upon request

Sculptor Jaime Guerrero uses glass to humanize refugee children at the Pittsburgh Glass Center

Blown glass children and angels expose the border crisis with dignity and fragility

July 25, 2019, Pittsburgh, PA – Award winning artist and sculptor [Jaime Guerrero](#) offers a unique look into the refugee crisis in the United States with his upcoming solo exhibition at the **Pittsburgh Glass Center (PGC)** titled [Cuando el Río Suena \(“When the River Sounds”\)](#). The new exhibition runs October 4, 2019 thru January 26, 2020. The opening reception will be held Friday, October 4th from 6-9pm. Guerrero uses this new body of work, created during a nine month long residency at PGC, supported in part by The Pittsburgh Foundation and the Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass, to shed light on everything from border crossings and child/family separation to detainment camps and subsequent fatalities.

Guerrero’s latest solo exhibition explores the fragility of life as it relates to the current US border crisis, with its influx of refugees and asylum seekers being met with fear, separation, and often times a much harsher reality than they could have imagined. The exhibit opens with a life-sized blown glass little girl, who represents the two year old child from Honduras whose audio went viral as she was being separated from her mother upon crossing the US border. The sculpture, along with the image and audio of this particular little girl’s experience, humanizes these children, whom most of us only see as a blurb on the news. Along with this child, several other life-sized blown glass children are displayed throughout the gallery to represent different border experiences, such as that of just crossing to the other side, separation, and detainment. Guerrero has also created a series of angels to represent the children that have passed away under border patrol custody/detainment. To see glass children alongside angels to expose the living and dead in this border struggle opens up a visual and paradox that is usually withheld from the general public. These children become real and can be felt and understood in a different light, on different terms. The exhibit also features a wall of letters written by migrants, young and old, to share their experiences of crossing the border in search of a new life. Guerrero’s body of work opens our eyes and strives to connect people, building community from shared experiences, hopes and dreams, understanding and compassion.

As part of the exhibition, Guerrero and Sister Janice Vanderneck, director of the non-profit organization [Casa San Jose](#) will offer a lecture at the Pittsburgh Glass Center on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at 6:30pm. Casa San Jose serves as a local Latino community resource and welcome center in southwestern Pennsylvania. Executive Director of the Pittsburgh Glass Center, Heather McElwee notes: Guerrero “seeks to use his work to bridge gaps and connect people through shared human experiences.” This talk will

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highlight Casa San Jose's involvement with the local community and the services they provide as well as Guerrero's volunteer work with the organization and the way in which it has influenced his exhibition. He hopes with this series of work to create awareness of the true experiences of migrants, especially youth in this border crisis.

Guerrero was born in 1974 in Los Angeles, California. Jaime is recognized for his versatility in crafting unique glass sculptures. He began his career at California College of Arts and Crafts in 1994. Although Guerrero mostly focuses on glass sculpture, he considers himself a mix media artist. "I love working with glass because it is a medium that has virtually been untouched by the mainstream art world. I like to push the limits of what can be accomplished in glass but will also use other materials to make my point more poignant." Jaime has studied with Masters Checco Ongaro, Pino Signoretto, and Ben Moore. He attended Pilchuck School of Glass and was nominated for the Corning Award. Jaime was a featured artist in the *Mastercraft* show at Gumps in San Francisco for five consecutive years. He received two Saxe Fellowship Awards (2006/2012) and the People's Choice Award (2012) from the Bay Area Glass Institute for his work "Charros y Sus Caballos". This work was later purchased by the Oakland Museum of California for its permanent collection. Guerrero has been featured in several major publications, most recently his work was on the cover of *Craft in America Magazine*. In 2018 Jaime received a grant with The Pittsburgh Foundation, and this upcoming solo exhibition is the fruition of the grant and a nine month residency with the Pittsburgh Glass Center. Guerrero's current work focuses on the treatment of immigrants coming to this country, who are escaping violence and persecution in their home countries. He specifically is making hand blown sculptures of children that are being separating from their families and put into detention centers. "My work embraces the notion that art can influence social change. It is important to bring awareness to the moral inequities that exist in society today." Jaime volunteers at Casa San Jose, a non-profit organization that helps give resources to the immigrant community.

www.guerreroglass.com

The Pittsburgh Glass Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is a hub for innovation and creativity, supporting and promoting glass art and those who make it. The non-profit center serves as a state-of-the-art glass studio and art gallery as well as a thriving glass community and education center. It works to bring community to the area and shape the region's creative economy. www.pittsburghglasscenter.org

Exhibition Opening: **Friday, October 4, 2020, 6pm - 9pm**

Pittsburgh Glass Center Location: 5472 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15206

Hours: Monday – Thursday, 10pm - 7pm; Friday – Sunday, 10am – 4pm

Admission: Free

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