

# PRESS RELEASE

December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

 MONARCH

ARREDON CONTEMPORARY ART

## **DEEP MIND: TECHNOLOGY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION**

Featuring Christina Leta and Robert Michael Jones

Exhibition Dates: January 16, 2016 – February 27, 2016

Monarch|Arredon Contemporary is pleased to present a group exhibition by Robert Michael Jones of San Diego and Christina Leta of Los Angeles. Opening reception, Saturday January 16<sup>th</sup>, from 6:00pm to 8:00pm and is open to the public. RSVP Requested.

**DEEP MIND:** Society is on the cusp of a social revolution, we are at a point in history where very few people have given critical thought to new social realities created by technology and what those realities mean for the individual and society. The history of technology is undoubtedly as old as humanity itself. Primitive forms of technology have been found with almost every archaeological find of ancient human remains. Technology has such far progressed from the mastery of fire by man in times before 1,000,000 BC, to the supercomputers, space stations, weapons, and artificial Intelligence.

DEEP MIND explores our increasingly complex relationship with technology and asks, what awaits us in the future from our present vantage point. Is it a new age of post-biological life? A world of intelligence without bodies, immortal identity without the limitations of disease, death, and unfulfilled desire? If we can understand why this fate is presented as both necessary and desirable, we might understand something about ourselves and about this new dawn. Join us as we explore this subject matter through the artwork of Robert Michael Jones and Christina Leta.

**ROBERT MICHEAL JONES'** sculpts mixed media and found objects to explore the human experience and the existential struggle to place ourselves into the massive scope of the universe. He expresses the order and entropy of the universe as a constant in his work by using a process of creation and destruction. For this show, Jones has selected moderate to large sized pieces from his dynamic body of work to form a collection of figurative sculptures that illustrates the staggering pace of technological advancement today. His artistic style and technique of creating expressive semi-transparent human forms from plate and wire metal, as well as his ability to infuse intention and personality attributes into his pieces, make Jones' work an expression of humanity's power and fragility and whose fate is tied to the rapid growth of technology.

Monarch | Arredon Contemporary  
7629 Girard Ave, Suite C2, La Jolla, Calif. 92037

[www.monarchfineart.com](http://www.monarchfineart.com)

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Jones' was first drawn to wire and metals during his pre-college years constructing and renovating houses with his father. He studied at the University of New Hampshire and after two years pursuing math and science he gravitated to the arts obtaining his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpting and Drawing in 2009. Since then he has settled in the San Diego area and has had group exhibitions nation-wide. Most recently, Jones completed his first public commission permanently installed at the historic Navy Yards in Washington D.C. titled Memories of Production.

“Lately I have been obsessed with the rapid evolution of technology and the ways in which it is changing our humanity. As we immerse ourselves in technology we begin to identify with it. I believe this deep connection brings up many questions and is a conversation society needs to have. It is artists' job to facilitate the conversation, which crosses the boundaries between all fields of study, so that we can better understand ourselves in this ever changing world.”

– Robert Michael Jones

**CHRISTINA LETA**'s paintings draw inspiration from surrealism, mass media, the visceral technique of urban art, & personal life experiences. Female faces are created using watercolor and each portrait is suspended in a negative space to further represent the emotions being portrayed and to engage the viewer to fill in the blanks with the feelings each painting evokes from their own experience. Human emotions such as vulnerability and isolation reflect in her works but they also explore synthetic emotions. Leta's dissolving portraits challenge the viewer to consider how they're shaped in an increasingly digital world where identify, communication and intelligence is artificially being replaced and redefined by technology. Leta's educational focus on fine art began in 2001 & guided her through her early studies, with the subject matter of reproducing the female figure prevailing throughout her artworks. In 2010 she received her Bachelors in Visual Art from a California State University in her hometown of Monterey and relocated to Los Angeles to launch professionally as an artist. Christina has had the opportunity to share her work through numerous galleries, events, & publications throughout California. Her growing following has propelled her work to the international stage, most recently through a commissioned project for a women's health organization in Australia.

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“I use what makes watercolor so difficult; its wild, unforgiving, unpredictable & surprising characteristics, to communicate evocative & immersive raw emotion with unexpected mixtures of carefully controlled realism & chaotic abstraction. I let the paint drip as a compositional component- to bring each portrait alive, wet with paint & emerging from the paper, or as if the paint is some kind of energy, made visible, that’s flowing from them.”~Christina Leta

**MONARCH | ARREDON CONTEMPORARY:** The Gallery has been part of the La Jolla community since 2004. Danny and Elsie Arredondo acquired the gallery in 2013 with a vision to provide only the highest standards of aesthetic quality and uniqueness in an inspiring and elegant setting. The Gallery specializes in figurative artwork through curated exhibitions featuring works that speak to individual and societal conditions by emerging, established and mid-level career artists.

DEEP MIND: featuring Robert Micheal Jones and Christina Leta runs from January 16, through February 27, 2016.

FOR VISUALS OR RSVPS CONTACT:

MONARCH | ARREDON CONTEMPORARY

Attention: Marisa Pennington, Marketing Associate at 858-454-1231 or

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