Ceramic sculptures inspired, in part, by pre-Columbian architecture.

October 11 to November 24, 2004

Artist Slide Lecture
October 14, 3 to 4 p.m.
Donohue Rare Book Room
(3rd Floor, Gleeson Library)

Reception with the artist
October 14, 4 to 6 p.m.
Thacher Gallery

Co-sponsored by CELASA/Latin American Studies.

Sculptor Francisco “Pancho” Jiménez uses his ceramic clay sculptures to explore the ways in which repeated forms from architecture and art resonate in new contexts. The organic and geometric motifs in his works are inspired, in part, by ancient ruins and pre-Columbian architecture. As you’ll see in “From the Ground Up,” he often works in series. The central grouping in this show, “Compadres,” is a cluster of tall, rectangular columns, set with undulating lines that bow as they rise from the ground. In “Los 5” a series of concentric portholes in clay inspired by the five cycles of the Pre-Columbian cosmic order draw the viewer in through the mystic power of the window, while the four wall tiles of “Eclipse,” present a smooth, open circle set onto a heavily worked surface that evokes a contemplative space in the midst of creative chaos.

He writes: I am intrigued by the mystery that I find in ancient art, much of it in ruins, in Mexico and other parts of the world. In my work I attempt to capture the mystery, the “eternal presence,” in these art forms in order to bring the past to the present, to inspire reflection on contemporary time and place. In this way, my work is evolutionary. Although the sculptures take on different forms, my interest and focus remains constant and is propelled by a desire to explore my primary medium, clay, in varied and technically challenging formats. My use of organic and geometric motifs is rooted in my belief that these forms convey a meaning that is both universal and timeless, linking the past and the future and cutting across cultures.

An award-winning sculptor, Jiménez received his MFA from San Francisco State University in 1997. He has shown in group and solo exhibitions throughout California and the U.S., including the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art and the Art Museum of the Americas in Washington D.C.