

DEM PASSWORDS

Matt Barton

D'om

Jul 1st – Aug 12th, 2017

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, July 1st
from 10 AM to 10 PM



Dem Passwords is pleased to present an interactive sculpture by Matt Barton to inaugurate our new long term location in the Upper Ojai Valley. This is Barton's second exhibition with Dem Passwords.

Matt Barton's outdoor artworks bridge folly architecture to spiritual functionality with an efficiency of style and precision rooted in skateboard ramp fabrication and informed by systems including Kabbalistic sacred geometry. Building on his "dome" form conceived and constructed in previous iterations with harvested materials, Barton brings an elevated order to this elaborated version of his observation tower slash gateway. Imagined like an inverted skateboard bowl with plywood removed and ribbed undergirding exposed, the construction seeks to transition experiencers to a sacred space, albeit with secular materials and free of any expressed spiritual imperative.

The tower dome's woodworked grid-motif is disrupted by little cut-out observation platforms and windows lined with light splitting diffraction grating recalling cathedral glass, with the artwork serving as a sort of parabolic reflector that collects and projects energies while standing as a symbol to the virtues of peace and positive thinking. The low wind load, open-ended design of the hive -- the balancing of negative and positive space -- allows energies to reach the attuned and deliver a consciousness expanding experience to who it will. Barton's heavy lifting is to the heavens despite mostly being a non-believer.

Connected psycho-geographically to the broader constellation of sacred sites in the Ojai Valley, the sculpture sits perched atop the rest of the property next to its own Live Oak like "Baba's Tree" on Meher Mount, and is meant to be considered alongside structures including tree-houses, grain silos and roadside shrines.

Matt Barton, 42, lives and works in Colorado Springs where he is the Co-Director of Visual Art at University of Colorado - Colorado Springs. Barton holds a Master's in Fine Arts from Carnegie Mellon and has exhibited work at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY; the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh; the Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburg; the Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe; and the Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh.

For further inquiries contact Sebastian Demian – 772.202.2733
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