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Artist Barbara Gomez to showcase new works

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Jenny Valdez

Las Vegas Art Examiner

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Photo: Barbara Gomez

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"Creating wheel-thrown forms keeps me centered, and glazing is always an adventure," says artist **Barbara Gomez**. Jenny Valdez Inc. and Mark Vranesh Studio will showcase **Gomez's** new original works this month at Preview Thursday and First Friday, in Las Vegas.

Gomez began working with ceramics back in 1997 and instantly fell in love. "Clay is such a forgiving medium," she says. "If you put too much water on it, you can always dry it out. If it dries out too much, you can re-hydrate it. You can also remove parts after it is formed, and add aspects at different stages of completion." **Gomez** also points out that the clay will do as it pleases and it is this uncertainty that adds charm to a piece.

Gomez was born and raised in the Philippines. She credits her friends and family as the driving forces behind her pursuit of pottery. Her dad, Martin Gomez, paints, sketches, and enjoys working with wood while her brother, Oliver Gomez, is a self-taught painter, sketcher, and natural sculptor. "It's so encouraging to come home with your piece and hear that it's better than your third-grade ashtray," she laughs.

Most of **Gomez's** work is done at the Las Vegas ceramic facility, **Pottery West**. "Working with other potters opens your mind up to so many other ideas, and that sense of community is pretty integral to the art. A lot of the glaze applications require a team of people taking shifts or working as a group to complete a kiln firing."

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Gomez's work is inspired by nature and gravitates towards materials that bring particles out of the clay, leave flame marks on a piece, or mimic the textures found in the world around us. "Digging your fingers into that organic clay makes one feel so in touch with the land. I enjoy leaving finger marks. It's my way of leaving a piece of me on the vessel."

Jenny Valdez Inc. and Mark Vranesh Studio are located inside **The Arts Factory** at 107 E. Charleston Boulevard, in suite 160. The gallery will be open from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Preview Thursday (January 6, 2011) and from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on First Friday (January 7, 2011).

For more information about **Gomez**, send an email to Muddhatter@yahoo.com.

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By Jenny Valdez
Las Vegas Art Examiner

Jenny Valdez is a writer, artist, and former Miss Nevada USA 2002 and Miss Las Vegas 2000. Jenny writes children's books inspired by her family's... [Read more](#)

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