

CRAFT & FOLK ART MUSEUM

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VISIONARY ARTIST SHRINE BUILDS TEMPLE IN CRAFT & FOLK ART MUSEUM

May 15 – August 24, 2014

LOS ANGELES — Self-taught artist Brent Spears, also known as Shrine, is known throughout the worldwide arts and music festival circuit for building site-specific, monolithic temples from trash and found materials. In the ground floor of the Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM), Shrine will construct a structure from discarded and found materials called *Empire of Love Shack*. It will be on view from May 18 to August 24, 2014.

Shrine is a muralist and installation artist whose visionary art practice combines a progressive, spiritual, and social stance. A desire for sustainable living and spontaneous visual culture informs his practice of dumpster-diving and reclaiming discarded objects to give them new meaning and value.

Shrine refers to his confluence of global art projects as an Empire of Love. The *Empire of Love Shack* at CAFAM will be assembled from an array of found and used materials, including bottles, cans, cardboard, and plastic bottles. For Shrine, the installation will reflect on carrying a single moment of inspiration through all of its possibilities.

“I will be talking about ‘The Moment of Inspiration’ and what it means to be loyal to that moment, following it all the way to the end, whatever that outcome may be. I’m basically trying to create a highly inspiring space out of everyday, ordinary stuff.”

Shrine’s paintings and murals can be found throughout Los Angeles, from the interiors of the Soap Plant, House of Blues, and La Luz de Jesus Gallery. His installations have been exhibited at the Yerba Buena Center for Arts and Project One Gallery in San Francisco. He recently completed mural commissions in New York City and Quito, Ecuador, and has been working on social practice art projects in Haiti, India, and Kenya. Shrine is a founding member of the interactive avant-garde circus Lucent Dossier Experience.

An opening reception for *Empire of Love Shack* will take place on Saturday, May 17 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

CAFAM will offer exhibition-related workshops and events in conjunction with the exhibition, including CraftLab family workshops on the second Sunday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

The Craft & Folk Art Museum (CAFAM) is Los Angeles’ only institution exclusively dedicated to exhibiting contemporary craft, design, and folk art. Located on the city’s historic Museum Row, CAFAM’s dynamic exhibitions feature established and emerging artists whose works create thoughtful and provocative visual exchanges between craft and contemporary art. CAFAM’s regular programs and events provide opportunities for the public to participate in artmaking and engage with exhibiting and local artists.

In addition to the exhibitions on view, the Craft & Folk Art Museum Shop features fair-trade art and handicrafts from both local and global artists and artisans.



Site-specific installation, 2014
Courtesy of the artist



Site-specific installation, 2014
Courtesy of the artist

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