

# PLEASE DO NOT ENTER

For Immediate Release  
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Presents

*Eat The River* by Frederick Gautier

A new site-specific work and artist residency

100 unique ceramic objects inspired by the Los Angeles River

Residency begins July 20, Exhibition Opening September 21, 2016  
Please Do Not Enter, 549 South Olive Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013



(Los Angeles, Calif.) - Please Do Not Enter announces its first artist in residency project, featuring experimental French artist Frédéric Gautier. *Eat The River* is a two-month long site-specific intervention into the LA River's history and landscape.

Beginning July 20, Gautier will spend two months in Los Angeles interacting with the site and creating works in a temporary studio space in Frogtown, where he will produce a series of 100 three-dimensional ceramic objects derived from the traces, cracks, holes, and imprints cast and drawn from the remnants of the site's physical history.

This new body of work will be presented for the first time on September 21, 2016, 6-9pm at Please Do Not Enter in Downtown Los Angeles.

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Gautier is fascinated by Los Angeles as a city of blurred boundaries where industrial zones bleed into natural habitats and freeways isolate neighborhoods. The LA River epitomizes this divisive reality and Gautier intends to excavate it as a symbolic site of industrial intervention. In 1920, the cement LA River bed was built to control perennial flooding, and the surrounding areas were redefined as a result as urban wastelands full of warehouses and dumps. It soon became an iconic setting for action movies and murky underworld auteur films. The landscape is changing, however, and Los Angeles has begun the reclamation and rediscovery of its 48-mile stretch of river: an axis that delineates the entirety of the city from north to south.

Gautier says, "My plan is to set out in search of visible forms and footprints, to inventory some one hundred cracks, joints, and holes in the concrete riverbed. Throughout my expedition downriver, beneath the bridges that span the flow of water and time, and one hundred years of civil engineering and architecture, I will be locating and highlighting one hundred discrete time markers. I will use this material for my fantasized reading of the watershed, grounded in true stories of day-to-day life on and around the river.

This is a quintessentially American cityscape, cast in countless Hollywood movies with their breakneck chase scenes. I love the concrete that ages so ungracefully, and I want to take samples of graphic relics from this massive movie set and turn them into a collection of utilitarian objects. I love the unreality of this concrete trench, this weirdly brutal, graphic slash across the landscape, overlaid upon the natural riverbed, creating surprising forms all along the 48-mile course.

I intend to delve into this site, this re-centered core of Los Angeles, and take from it what I need to make a situational assessment and a project statement, my personal coming-to-grips with this hybrid cityscape."

Please view a concept video for [Eat The River](#).

Please Do Not Enter presented Frédéric Gautier's work for the first time in North America in Spring 2016. *30 Brutalist Tea Pots* included a selection of works from Gautier's performance project entitled *Tx100*, in which Gautier resided on the Louise-Catherine, a boat converted by the architect Le Corbusier, on the River Seine in Paris during the design festival D'DAYS in June of 2015. While on site, Gautier created 100 teapots in concrete that were exhibited in the raw space of the boat. The project referenced nomadic microarchitecture through the creation of everyday objects, incorporating found material elements and imperfections from the site into the creation of raw, unadorned, utilitarian forms.

*Eat The River* is organized and produced by Please Do Not Enter with the generous support of Frost/Chaddock Developers, Industry Partners, RAC Design Build, and RedCar Properties.

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## **About Frederick Gautier**

At the intersection of art and design, Gautier's ceramics explore the themes of necessity, utility, shape and form. Through his art, he establishes a dialectic between the constructed and the organic, the made and the found, and the fleeting and the permanent. By using a repertoire of simply repeated shapes, the artist is influenced by Bauhaus, Le Corbusier, and Mallet-Stevens. Gautier creates his ceramics in his Parisian workshop where he experiments with alternative material uses and applications. Embracing a somewhat "crude" modern aesthetic, Gautier focuses his work on the material itself rather than on its ornamentation. He favors the rawness of concrete for its reliefs and textures.

From 2010 to 2014, Gautier studied at the renowned École Nationale du Paysage de Versailles, developing his interest in landscape and expertise as a landscape architect. In 2013, Gautier's controversial performance work Royal Splash was presented in the Versailles Grand Canal and filmed by Agnes B and French Director Laurent Perreau.

## **About Please Do Not Enter**

Please Do Not Enter is a one-of-a-kind curated store in the heart of Downtown Los Angeles. This unique space features an eclectic array of exclusive timeless contemporary pieces, including contemporary design, high fashion, luxury accessories and contemporary art. Carefully selected and curated, most pieces are unique or part of small editions.

Being contemporary art and design collectors themselves, the two French founders, Nicolas Libert and Emmanuel Renoird, have amassed an important outdoor sculpture garden on the grounds of their unique country home in Normandy, France. Their contemporary collection includes site-specific works by artists such as Saadane Afif, Karsten Födinger, Vincent Lamouroux, Guillaume Leblon, Arik Levy, Vincent Mauger, Richard Nonas and Andra Ursuta. Libert and Renoird extend their passion as art patrons to Please Do Not Enter, viewing it as a supportive platform for contemporary creation, and as a conduit through which to sponsor and produce outdoor installations and commissioned works for special projects.  
<http://www.pleasedonotenter.com/>

Images: LA River by Frederick Gautier, courtesy the artist.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT**

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