

# HASHIMOTO CONTEMPORARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## *Old Friends*

a solo exhibition by Lorien Stern

August 26th - September 23rd

SAN FRANCISCO—"Friendship" might not be the first word that comes to mind when thinking of dinosaurs, but it is for Lorien Stern. Her second solo exhibition at Hashimoto Contemporary, *Old Friends*, celebrates the connections inhabitants of Earth have to prehistoric creatures while dispelling any fear of dinos as dangerous, menacing beasts. Inspired by the imaginative work paleontologists and paleoartists have done to represent these mysterious creatures, Stern's work casts the animals from this extremely distant past in an optimistic light, declaring them as sweet and lovable as our oldest friends.



Known for her signature bright, vivid style, Stern understands the origins of her ceramic practice as a way to mourn the loss of loved ones and become brave in the face of perceived danger. In rendering threatening animals or symbols of loss in rounded shapes and flamboyant hues, she transforms the typical connotations of loss into something more palatable. On this subject, Stern remarked "Sometimes to find joy, you have to take scary risks and remind yourself, 'Well, I am going to die one day,' which can help give you the little push you need."

This new series of large and mid-size ceramic wall works and sculptures emphasize the joy and wonder of discovering prehistoric life on Earth. In humanizing these creatures through playful gestures, Stern nags at a human anxiety: how will we be remembered when we are gone? By repositioning these ancient beings as cheery or lighthearted, Stern gives hope that, even for the most petrifying parts of ourselves, our legacy can be one of light, optimism, and friendship.

An opening reception will be held on Saturday, August 26th, from 5 pm - 7 pm at 1275 Minnesota Street, San Francisco. The artist will be in attendance. The exhibition will be on view through September 23rd. For more information, additional images, or exclusive content, please email [communications@hashimotocontemporary.com](mailto:communications@hashimotocontemporary.com)

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## WHAT:

*Old Friends*

A solo exhibition by Lorien Stern

## WHERE:

Hashimoto Contemporary

1275 Minnesota St.

San Francisco, CA 94107

## WHEN:

Opening night reception: Saturday, August 26th, 5-7pm

On view through Saturday, September 23rd

## RELEVANT LINKS:

Hashimoto Contemporary: <https://www.hashimotocontemporary.com/>

Minnesota Street Project: <https://minnesotastreetproject.com/>

Lorien Stern: <https://www.lorienstern.com/>

## ABOUT THE GALLERY:

Hashimoto Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery originally founded in 2013 by Ken Harman Hashimoto. In 2023 the gallery announced two new partners, Dasha Matsuura and Jennifer Rizzo. Our roster consists of an eclectic blend of emerging and mid-career contemporary artists working primarily within our respective local communities. Hashimoto Contemporary provides a platform for artists whose identities and subjects have been historically relegated to the margins, as well as artists whose practices fit neatly into the canon of art history. You can find us at the Minnesota Street Project (San Francisco), the Lower East Side (New York City) and Culver City (Los Angeles) where our three spaces organize new exhibitions monthly.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Lorien Stern is an artist living in Inoykern, California, a small town in the Western Mojave Desert. She makes ceramic art and runs a small brand consisting of clothing, home goods, and accessories. Often in her work, Stern attempts to disarm subjects that are typically seen as dangerous or scary (sharks, ghosts, dinosaurs to name a few), making them more familiar and approachable for a viewer through subtle visual interventions. Choosing subjects that spark thoughts of nature, celebration, and death, Stern draws from shared human and animal experiences to fulfill her ultimate goal as an artist: making people feel happy when they see her work. She received her BFA from California College of the Arts in 2013 as an Individualized Major.