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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NEW EDITION

Daniel Joseph Martinez
A Little Liberty, 2012
18-Karat gold glazed ceramic
Edition of 100 + 10 Artist Proofs
15 x 4 x 5 inches (38.1 x 10.16 x 12.7 cm)
Published by Roberts & Tilton, Culver City, California
Hand Fabricated by C eramica Suro, Guadalajara, Mexico
Release Date: October 1, 2012

Roberts & Tilton is pleased to announce the publication of a limited edition sculpture by Daniel Joseph Martinez entitled *A Little Liberty*. Cast in ceramic and glazed gold in an edition of 100, these small-scale sculptures transform the American concept of the idealized commemorative object, fetishized and mass produced into a slightly disfigured, oddly distopic symbol of consumerist greed and materialism.



Originally imagined and designed by Frederic Bartholdi as a gift from the people of France to the United States, *The Statue of Liberty* is a robed female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom, who bears a torch and a tablet evoking divine law upon which is inscribed the date of the American Declaration of Independence. The concepts of liberty and freedom, having long been stripped of their inherent meaning, have become hollow, bastardized ideals. However, Martinez, recognizing that his work must operate within the larger consumerist landscape, has created his own divisive Liberty, with a hole at the bottom of her foot. Is this strange Achilles heel a point of entry or a means by which Liberty is conspicuously drained of all meaning?

Martinez implies that Liberty is simply another falsified construct, an overwrought and sentimental nod to a future ideology that will likely never manifest culturally, wherein all the moral principles that go hand in hand with social transformation are not realized. As an object, Martinez' Liberty is objectified and parceled out in much the same manner souvenirs are taken as smaller consumerist stand-ins for larger cultural concepts, again diluting their fundamental meaning. The fact the sculpture has been reconstructed by Martinez to reflect structural weakness, as the object tilts awkwardly to one side, fractured and reassembled in much the same way Frankenstein's monster sported a patchwork disarray of body parts, transforms it yet again, proposing in the place of staid traditionalist values, a new utopia for the maimed, the broken and the dispossessed.



Recent exhibitions include *Print/Out* at the Museum of Modern Art, New York; *I want to go to Detroit*; *Cheerleaders CHEER*, LAXART, Los Angeles, a solo exhibition in conjunction with *Pacific Standard Time*; *Divine Violence Installation*, Site Santa Fe Biennial, Santa Fe; and *A Meditation on the Possibility of Romantic Love; or, Where You Goin' with That Gun in Your Hand*. Bobby Seale And Huey Newton Discuss the Relationships between Expressionism and Social Reality Present in *Hitler's Paintings*, Istanbul Biennial, Turkey. Martinez was included in the Aperto exhibition at the 1993 Venice Biennale and two Whitney Biennials in 2008 and 1993 where the artist's Museum Tags: *Second Movement (Overture)*; or *Overture con Claque (Overture with Hired Audience Members)* stated *I Can't/Imagine/Ever Wanting/To Be/White*, which were subsequently featured

on the cover of Artforum magazine on two separate occasions; once as the cover for the 1993 Whitney Biennial edition and once as the cover for *Best of the 90s* December 1999 edition. Martinez' work has been the subject of four monographs to date, including the monumental retrospective monograph published by Hatje Cantz in 2009. The artist's work can be found in numerous public collections both in the United States and abroad including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA; Cisneros Fontanals Art Foundation, Miami, FL; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; and the Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, TX. Martinez currently lives and works in Los Angeles where he is Professor of Theory, Practice, and Mediation of Contemporary Art at the University of California, Irvine; he teaches in the Graduate Studies Program and the New Genres Department.

Founded in Guadalajara in 1951, C eramica Suro has worked with over one hundred artists including Miguel Calderon, Liz Craft, Eduardo Sarabia, John Baldessari and Jorge Pardo, among others. Second generation owner art patron Jos e No e Suro, directs a staff of lifelong potters and painters dedicated to excellence in the medium of clay.

Daniel Joseph Martinez' *A Little Liberty* is available for pre-order at \$950. For additional information, please contact Mary Skarbek at mary@robertsandtilton.com or 323.549.0223.