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Artistic Vision: Empty Vessel by Amir Zaki exhibition opens Sept. 19



The Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion at Orange Coast College will feature an exhibition of the Huntington Beach-based photographer's work called "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki"

Register

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WHO: Amir Zaki is a photographer in Huntington Beach. Tyler Stallings is director of the [Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion](#) at Orange Coast College and curator of the exhibition of Zaki's work, "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki."

WHAT: The exhibition, opening Sept. 19, features two new bodies of work by Zaki in dialogue with one another. It expands on Zaki's dedication to photographing built and natural landscapes, and features a new body of photographs that juxtapose images of vacant skateparks and broken ceramic vessels. Through both the intentional absence of skaters and the brokenness of the ceramics, together all these "vessels" are pictured as sculptural rather than functional; hence the title "Empty Vessel."

HOW: From a fine arts perspective, Zaki's work is an extension of the New Topographic photographers from the 1970s by extending their focus on our human-made environment into the suburban and exurban environments throughout Southern California..

From a popular culture angle, according to Stallings, the uniqueness of "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki" is that most shows exploring skateboarders focus on the graphics lifestyle or the skateboarders themselves. But this will be the first major exhibition that features the unusual architecture of the skateparks.

QUOTED: Stallings writes of the exhibition, "Hung in proximity to one another, sometimes juxtaposed, the images generate a complex conversation around the notion of 'emptiness,' which includes removing presuppositions from one's mind about what one is about to experience, is experiencing, or has experienced. By disentangling the mind of one's own stories and worries, one can be open to other possibilities presented by perception itself."

NOTED: Architect Peter Zellner wrote about Zaki's work for the book, "California Concrete: A Landscape of Skateparks," with a foreword by famed skater Tony Hawk.
