

The Department of Anthropology invites you to a Colloquium

Presented by: *Michelle Rich*

LACMA Mellon Postdoctoral Curatorial Fellow

*Royal Courts, Ritual, and Resurrection: The Excavation, Conservation,  
and Exhibition of the El Perú-Waka' Burial 39 Figurine Scene*



In 2006, at the Classic period city of El Perú-Waka', Petén, Guatemala, Michelle Rich excavated a 7th century Maya royal tomb and discovered a compelling narrative scene of twenty-three ceramic figurines representing members of a Maya royal court engaged in an elaborate resurrection ritual. After excavation, Dr. Rich was instrumental in coordinating a multi-institutional project to restore and conserve the figurines, which had been terribly damaged inside the tomb. These figurines have become the new icons of indigenous Guatemalan cultural patrimony, and because of the collaborative restoration project, they also represent what can be accomplished through successful and inspired partnerships between Guatemalan governmental institutions, archaeological projects, and museums. Most importantly, they are a prime example of the rich information that scientific, archaeological excavation makes possible. Dr. Rich will discuss the fascinating scene and its meaning, underscoring important points about archaeological context, as well as introduce the forthcoming figurine exhibition at LACMA.

**INTS 1113**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017**

**3:10 – 4:30pm**