

2016 Hall of Honor

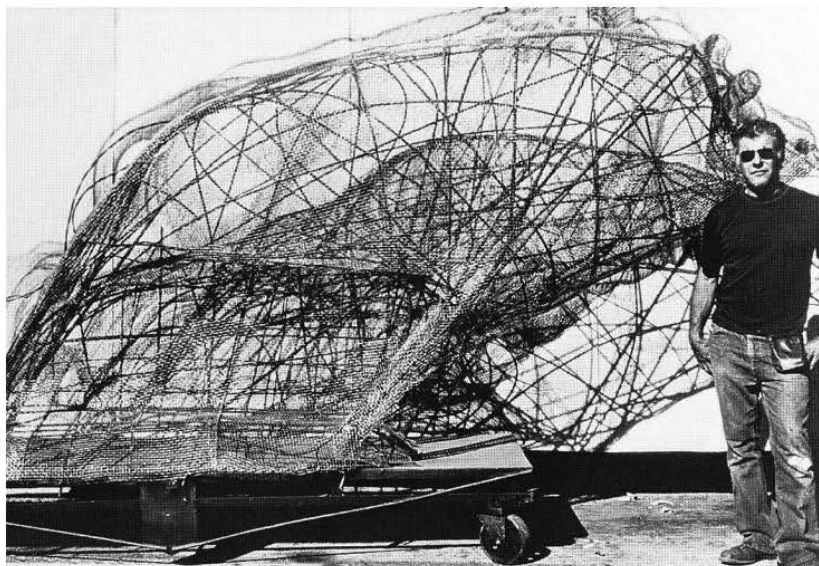
Luis A. Jimenez, Jr.

2016 Hall of Honor Inductee

Luis A. Jimenez, Jr. was born in El Paso, Texas on July 30, 1940. He graduated from The University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Art & Architecture. He also studied at Ciudad Universitaria in Mexico City.

An avid sculptor, Mr. Jimenez is best known in El Paso for his “Plaza de los Lagartos” statute, which still stands at San Jacinto Plaza. Throughout the years, Mr. Jimenez received several large-scale commissions for art work in Steuben Glass, New York; Houston, Texas; Fargo, North Dakota; and Wichita, Kansas, among many other cities. He held scores of individual and group exhibits over four decades.

Mr. Jimenez was a prolific artist, whose work “Man on Fire” can be found in the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American Art. As the New York Times noted, “The work, perhaps his best known, depicts a man in flames, and is based on the Aztec emperor Cuauhtémoc, who was burned



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alive by Spanish conquistadores.”

He was bestowed with several awards by the National Endowment for the Arts; the A.I.A Environmental Improvement Award by VAQUERO in Houston, Texas; the Francis J. Greenburger Award in New York City, New York; the Skowhegan Sculpture Award; the New Mexico Governor’s Award; and the Key to the City of El Paso.

As cited by the New York Times, Jim Moore, the former director of the Albuquerque Museum, stated, “At the height of Minimalism in the 1960s, he chose to do something out of fashion.... His work contributed to the rise of Pop Art, but it was more a willingness to do something so overtly meaningful at first glance.”