



The Meanings and Uses of 'Found' Objects by Contemporary Maya Ritual Practitioners

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**THURSDAY, 10/19/2023 • 3PM-4PM • Max Salazar Hall, CNM
872 University Blvd. SE • Room 306**

In the highlands of Guatemala, contemporary Maya ritual practitioners collect and curate special found objects as sacred materials. Many of these items are archaeological artifacts. In this talk, Dr. Brown will discuss what archaeological artifacts mean to their contemporary Maya collectors and how they are used. Specifically, Dr. Brown will focus on the vital role of found materials in communicating with ancestral beings.



Linda Brown is an anthropological archaeologist and an Adjunct Research Assistant Professor (LAT) at the University of New Mexico. Her primary research focuses on Maya ceremonial activities. Brown has worked extensively with contemporary Maya ritual practitioners in the highlands of Guatemala with a focus on sacred objects and places. Currently, she is the coordinator of ethnographic research at the site of San Bartolo, Guatemala. Various institutions have supported her research including the National Science Foundation, National Endowment for the Humanities, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, The Foundation for the Advancement of Mesoamerican Studies, and Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collections.

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