

# **XÓLOTL: DIOS PERRO MONUMENTAL ALEBRIJE**

**Artist: Óscar Becerra-Mora**



**What is an Alebrije?** Alebrijes (pronounced *ah-leh-bree-hehs*) are Mexico's version of the fantastical creatures that are part of the collective imaginations of cultures throughout the world. They exist in various representations such as gargoyles in Gothic cathedrals, dragons in Asian cultures, various creatures in Greek mythology, and Persian and Egyptian religious traditions. In Mexico, with its rich biodiversity, folk art and craftsmanship, *Alebrijes* have found a distinct look. They are represented with features taken from various animals such as wings, horns, tails, and claws.

**Xólotl (pronounced *Sho-lotel*):** *Xólotl: Dios Perro* (Dog Deity) is the representation of the Aztec God Xólotl, Lord of the underworld. He was the brother of Quetzalcóatl, the feathered serpent, and was charged with protecting the sun as it passed through the underworld. It is said that he helped his brother in the creation of the humankind. One of his defining qualities is his ability to transform into other figures, animals or objects.

**About the Artist and His Technique:** Óscar Becerra-Mora is a great Mexican contemporary artist based in Mexico City. He has dedicated more than 10 years to the art of *cartonería*: vibrantly colored paper-mâché sculptures, incorporating modeled cardboard. *Cartonería* is a relatively modern form of Mexican folk art and is used to create everything from masks to toys to piñatas to monumental *Alebrijes* such as *Xólotl: Dios Perro*, which showcases Becerra-Mora's mastery of the technique.

