



Guillermo del Toro

At Home With Monsters

By James Balestrieri

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — The essence of “Guillermo del Toro: At Home With Monsters,” the strange and wonderful exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) through November 27, is this: Guillermo del Toro, born in 1964, is a major writer and director whose films include *Cronos* (1993), *The Devil’s Backbone* (2001), *Hellboy* (2004), *Pan’s Labyrinth* (2006), *Pacific Rim* (2013) and *Crimson Peak* (2015). He is a master who creates worlds that embrace horror, science fiction, fantasy and fairy tales. He insists that, as fantastic as they are, these worlds are located and grounded beside, beneath and in the real world, our world — a world, he might argue, that we merely imagine as real. The membrane separating these worlds is thin, porous and portal-ridden. The worlds are distorted reflections of one another. This distortion becomes the occasion for his ideas and art.



Page from Notebook 2 by Guillermo del Toro. Leather-bound notebook, ink on paper, 8 by 10 by 1½ inches. Collection of Guillermo del Toro. ©Guillermo del Toro. Photo courtesy Insight Editions.



Jointly organized by LACMA with the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Art Gallery of Ontario, this first retrospective of the filmmaker's work arrays sculpture, paintings, prints, photography, costumes, ancient artifacts, books, maquettes and film to create a complex portrait of a creative genius. Roughly 60 of the 500 objects on view are from LACMA's collection. More belong to the artist.

An important work of his imagination is his suburban Los Angeles house, a place where he is entirely at home — hence the exhibition title — a place filled with his own creations and the inspirations for..

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Guillermo del Toro at work on his current notebook in the Comic Book Library at Bleak House. Photo courtesy Insight Editions.

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