



Press Release: Feb 5, 2011

[SD Art Prize 2011 Award Announced and New Contemporaries IV: San Diego Emerging Artists](#)

Contact: Patricia Frischer, patricia@SDVisualArts.Net 760.943.0148

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) is announcing the two established artist awarded the 2011 [San Diego Art Prize](#) in its fifth year. [Jay S. Johnson](#) and [Rubén Ortiz-Torres](#) will show with their choice of emerging artists at [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair](#) September 1 - 4, 2011 at the [Hilton San Diego Bayfront, Hotel](#).

We are also delighted to announce the fourth year of the New Contemporaries exhibition to be held at [Alexander Salazar Fine Art](#) in downtown San Diego from August 1 – 31, 2011.

[Mely Barragan](#) nominated by [Einar and Jamex de la Torre](#), artists
[Adam Belt](#) nominated by Karen McGuire, William D. Cannon Art Gallery Director
[Susannah Bielak](#) nominated by [Ann Berchtold](#), Art San Diego Fair Director
[Fred Briscoe](#) nominated by Alexander Salazar, [Alexander Salazar Fine Art](#) Director
[Isaias Crow](#) nominated by [Alessandra Moctezuma](#), SD Mesa College Art Gallery Director
[Shay Davis](#) nominated by [Debra Poteet](#), art collector
[Damian Gastellum](#) nominated by [Julio Orozco](#), artist
[Gretchen Mercedes](#) nominated by [Lauren Buscemi](#), art writer
[Han Nguyen](#) nominated by [Robert Pincus](#), art critic
[Jaime Ruiz Otis](#) nominated by [Heriberto Yepez](#), art writer
[Lee Puffer](#) nominated by [Gail Roberts](#), artist
[Chris Puzio](#) nominated by [David Adey](#), artist
[Cheryl Sorg](#) nominated by [Patricia Frischer](#), San Diego Visual Arts Network coordinator

The 2011 nominating committee, which changes yearly, consists of SD Art Prize recipients for the previous year, writers for the SD Art Prize Art Notes, Honorary Hosts and the SD Art Prize committee: ALL emerging artists in the SD region are eligible to be chosen by the established recipients each season including but not limited to nominated artists in this and previous New Contemporaries exhibitions.

The **SD ART PRIZE** is dedicated to the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and rewarding ingredient of any world-class city and a building block of the lifestyle of its residents. Conceived to promote and encourage dialogue, reflection and social interaction about San Diego's artistic and cultural life, this annual award honors artistic expression. The **SD ART PRIZE**, a cash prize with exhibition opportunities, spotlights established San Diego artists and emerging artists whose outstanding achievements in the field of Visual Arts merit the recognition.

San Diego Art Prize 2011 at [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair](#)

September 1 - 4, 2011

[Hilton San Diego Bayfront, Hotel](#), 1 Park Boulevard, 92101

Hours: Fri and Sat, Feb 3/4 from noon to 8 pm, Sun, Feb 5 from 11 to 5

More info: [Patricia Frischer](#) 760.943.0148 [Ann Berchtold](#) 858.254.3031

New Contemporaries at [Alexander Salazar Fine Art](#)

Opening Reception: Monday, August 1, 2011 from 6 – 9 pm

Panel discussion with artists: Monday, August 8, 6 - 9 pm

[Alexander Salazar Fine Art](#), 1040 7th Avenue Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Exhibition hours: Tue - Sat 11 - 6, Saturday and Sunday by appointment

For more info: [Patricia Frischer](#) 760.943.0148 [Alexander Salazar](#) 619.531.8669



www.SDVisualArts.net 760.943.0148 info@SDVisualArts.net
2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007



Please note our new partnership with the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

SD Art Prize 2010

[Einar and Jamex de la Torre](#) and emerging artist [Julio Orozco](#)

April 2 to May 7, 2011

Opening reception: April 1 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.

[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

1008 Wall St , La Jolla, 92037

More info: press@jathenaeum.org 858.454.5872

SD Art Prize 2011 at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

March 31 – May 5, 2012

[Ruben Ortiz-Torres](#) with emerging artist TBD

[Jay Johnson](#) with emerging artist TBD

Reception on March 30, 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM

[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

1008 Wall St. La Jolla, 92037

More info: press@jathenaeum.org 858.454.5872



[Rubén Ortiz-Torres](#) was born in Mexico City in 1964. Educated within the utopian models of republican Spanish anarchism soon confronted the tragedies and cultural clashes of post colonial third world. After giving up the dream of playing baseball in the major leagues he decided to study art. He went first to the oldest and one of the most academic art schools of the Americas (the Academy of San Carlos in Mexico City) and later to one of the newest and more experimental (Calarts in Valencia CA). After enduring Mexico City's earthquake and pollution he moved to LA with a Fullbright grant to survive riots, fires, floods, more earthquakes, and proposition 187. During all this he has been able to produce artwork in the form of paintings, photographs, objects, installations, videos, and films. He is part of the permanent Faculty of the University of California in San Diego. He has participated in several international exhibitions and film festivals. His work is in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía in Madrid Spain and others.



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[Jay S. Johnson](#) has worked with several materials, from clay to wood and metals. He has experiment more with paint recently, and has incorporated it beautifully into his wooden sculptures. An expert craftsman, he has worked off and on in construction, refining his wood-working skills. Whether his works are figurative or symbolic, they are most often wry and thought-provoking. Johnson himself says, "Utilizing the neutral background of the wall I attempt to draw the viewer closer to my objects by employing simple yet seductive materials and forms. Familiar images applied to these interior shapes may sometimes be clues to deciphering the content of the work, which typically deals with issues concerning man's relations to each other and to nature." Robert L. Pincus, art critic for the San Diego Union-Tribune wrote about Johnson's solo exhibition at the Athenaeum Music & Art Library, saying: "The two major qualities that make Jay Johnson's art so persistently compelling come together gracefully in "Smoking Room,"... One of them is his genuine gift for elegance - not easy elegance, but the taut sort of understated beauty that emanates from a keen sense of how to use materials and employ symbolic images. The second quality is his fascination with the relationship between a single form and surrounding objects, which takes a new form in this show." Johnson work has been widely exhibited, reviewed, and collected in California including the important Museum of Contemporary Art solo show in 1997. Jay Johnson has been a UCSD lecturer for sculpture since 2001.

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