



PRESS RELEASE:

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[www.svisualarts.net](http://www.svisualarts.net)

SAN DIEGO (Oct 4, 2023) [San Diego Visual Arts Network](http://www.svisualarts.net) is pleased to announce the [2023 SD Art Prize](#) recipients [Anya Gallaccio](#), [Janelle Iglesias](#), [Joe Yorty](#), [Mely Barragan](#) . These SD Art Prize Artists will all be exhibiting in booth #118 at [Art San Diego Nov 3rd -5th, 2023](#) and will be honored at an opening reception on **Saturday, October 28 from 3 – 5 pm.** at [Central Library Gallery](#) from October 28, 2023 – January 13, 2024. The curator for this Art Prize is **Dr. Lara Bullock**, Senior Civic Art Manager, City of San Diego.

Binding us or dividing us with positive or critical views, these four artists show us that no opinions are ignored. The viewer takes comfort in knowing we are not alone in how we feel. We are all together in this time of confusion and striving.

[Mely Barragan](#) grew up not quite Chicano and not quite Mexican. The confusion often reflects all of today' mental distress. Her subjects are cross border short term contract agricultural workers and the unjust economic colonialism that came from that practice as well as medical dehumanization.

[Anya Gallaccio](#) is using tech to re-create nature by printing a 3-D mountain in clay. Her process reproduces but clay is not easily controlled. Even after selecting and firing and glazing fragments of this production, the clay shows through, optimistically endeavoring to survive all we do to it.

[Janelle Iglesias](#) takes ordinary things (rocks, bar codes, plastic plants) and placing them in extraordinary combinations. The process of collecting both natural and human-made objects, fake and real becomes a reflection on how we are treating the world

[Joe Yorty](#) discovered that what you throw away is a sign of your class. The object themselves accumulate signs of your life and those stained, faux wood surfaces are honored as he de-constructs and re-constructs his art works.

[www.SDVisualArts.net](http://www.SDVisualArts.net)



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We are raising funds to support the SD Art Prize and you can donate through [VENMO](#), [Facebook](#), [Go Fund Me](#), or at the [donate page of SDVAN](#). Donations over \$500 will receive a signed catalog and invite to the private VAP party hosted by the SD Central Library Foundation on Friday, Oct 27 from 5 to 7:30.

Their outstanding creativity, dedication to their work and contributions to our region have made this year's artists stand out to the three national and international curators who selected them from the nominations made by 17 local art professionals.

The impressive list of selectors this year are:

**Pedro Alonzo** - Adjunct Curator at Dallas Contemporary, Dallas, Texas

**Susanna Temkin** - Curator at El Museo del Barrio, New York, New York

**Kathryn Kraczon** - Director of Exhibitions of the Brown Arts Institute (BAI) and Chief Curator of the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, Providence Rhode Island

Champions and writers for the artist this year are:

**Melinda Guillen**, Ph.D. Independent Curator writing for Anya Gallaccio

**Elizabeth Rooklidge**, Editor, Herein Magazine writing for Janelle Iglesias

**Justin Duyao**, Independent Writer, Editor and Creative director writing for Joe Yorty

**Chris Kraus**, Independent Writer and Filmmaker writing for Mely Barragan

The SD Art Prize Committee and a changing independent panel of arts professionals selected from our local museums, journalists, curators, educators, and the previous year's SD Art Prize recipients are asked each year to submit nominations for artists who have exhibited outstanding creativity and have contributed their talent to our arts community.

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 artists in the San Diego to Ensenada, Mexico region whose outstanding achievements in the field of visual arts merit the recognition.

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) (SDVAN) strives to improve the clarity, accuracy and sophistication of discourse about San Diego's artistic and cultural life. SDVAN provides a resource-rich website and facilitates countless opportunities for inspiration and collaboration on visual arts projects. This is the only site designed exclusively for Visual Arts in the San Diego region. SDVAN is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to reinforcing the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN list over 2500 visual arts resources in our region

[Art San Diego](#) (ASD) a contemporary art show in the heart of southern California featuring an international slate of artists and galleries. The show features over 500 leading contemporary artists, museum exhibitions, Art Labs, SD Art Prize, events, and Art Talks focused on collecting. Now in its 12<sup>th</sup> year, the three-day event attracts over 15,000 high-net-worth collectors. Since its inception in 2009, Art San Diego has become one of the leading cultural events and inspired attendees from all over the world. ASD aims to play a key role in



San Diego's rich array of cultural events, nurturing and strengthening the city's art scene with a dynamic agenda.

[Central Library Art Gallery](#) is a part of the San Diego Public Library's Visual Art Exhibition programs allowing free access to the visual arts, while promoting San Diego artists and creative community groups. Rotating exhibitions can be enjoyed at many of the 35 branch libraries as well as in the Fine Art Gallery and Valeiras Sculpture Garden on the ninth floor of the Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common. San Diego Public Library's Visual Art Program demonstrates the library's role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines while assisting San Diego's emerging, mid-career and professional artists achieve wider local, regional, and national attention.

**[2023 SD Art Prize](#) at [Art San Diego](#) Nov 3rd - 5th, 2023**

Presented by [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

Curated by **Dr. Lara Bullock**, Senior Civic Art Manager

Including **SD Art Prize 2023** recipients [Anya Gallaccio](#), [Janelle Iglesias](#), [Joe Yorty](#), [Mely Barragan](#)

**[Art San Diego](#)** Booth # Booth 118

San Diego Convention Center Hall E

111 W Harbor Dr. San Diego, CA 92101

Collectors' VIP Opening Fri, 3, 6 – 9pm

Weekend Fair Hours: Sat, Nov 4 from 11am – 7pm and Sun. Nov 5 from 11am – 5pm

[Tickets](#)

**[San Diego Art Prize](#) at [Central Library Gallery](#) presented by [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)**

**Oct 28, 2023 to Jan 23, 2024**

**Reception Saturday, Oct 28, 3 to 5 pm**

[Central Library Gallery](#)

9th Floor, 330 Park Blvd.,

San Diego, CA 92101

[OnView@sandiego.gov](mailto:OnView@sandiego.gov)

Mon/Tues: 1 – 7pm

Wednesday/Thurs/Fri: 12 - 5pm

Saturday: 12 - 5pm Sunday: closed

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More information contact: Lara Bullock: [sdartprize@gmail.com](mailto:sdartprize@gmail.com) 817.797.3052

See artists' bios and photos below.

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### **Mely Barragán**

<https://melybarragan.com/>

Mely Barragán is a multidisciplinary contemporary artist, who works with various media transforming prefabricated images into identity constructs. She was born and is living in Tijuana, where she studied Graphic Design with a specialty in Visual Arts at the Universidad Iberoamericana. Her aesthetic objectives have focused on exploring the role of identity and of women within the power schemes of society. Her work questions the existing visual formulas and addresses the consequences of human and gender relations; reflects on obsession, the absurd, the beautiful, the grotesque, nostalgia, time, the behavior of human relationships, etc. Play with words and compositions creating a fragmented atmosphere. Barragán has individual and group exhibitions in Mexico, the United States, China and several European countries, being awarded several times and having obtained various scholarships. She has carried out artistic residencies in Morocco, Cleveland, Beijing, Moscow, Monterrey, Oaxaca, Chiapas, among others. She was co-director of TJINCHINA Project Space, involved with an exchange of contemporary art between Tijuana and China. Currently she co-directs Ruta Terrestre, an agro-cult-tourism project that promotes cultural and sustainable development in Vallecitos, B.C., Mexico. Her work is part of public and private collections such as the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego (MCASD), the Tijuana Cultural Center (Cecut), Stanford University Libraries special collections, Elias Fontes Collection, among others.



**Anya Gallaccio**

<https://www.lehmannmaupin.com/artists/anya-gallaccio>

Anya Gallaccio is a British artist, who creates site-specific, minimalist installations and often works with organic matter (including chocolate, sugar, flowers and ice). Her use of organic materials results in natural processes of transformation and decay, meaning that Gallaccio is unable to predict the result of her installations. Something which at the start of an exhibition may be pleasurable, such as the scent of flowers or chocolate, would inevitably become increasingly unpleasant over time. The timely and site-specific nature of her work make it notoriously difficult to document. Her work therefore challenges the traditional notion that an art object or sculpture should essentially be a monument within a museum or gallery. Instead, her work often lives through the memory of those that saw and experienced it - or the concept of the artwork itself.



**Janelle Iglesias**

<https://www.lashermanasiglesias.com/janelle-iglesias>

JANELLE (she, they) is an Assistant Professor of Studio in the Department of Visual Arts at the University of California San Diego and works on site-responsive projects in a variety of contexts. Her work is invested in the metaphors, history and agency of objects/materials. An alumna of the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, her work has been supported by the Joan Mitchell Foundation, the Pollock-Krasner Foundation and the Jerome Foundation- through which Janelle Iglesias conducted research on bowerbirds in the rainforests of West Papua.





Photo credit: Phillip Scholz Rittermann

**Joe Yorty**

<http://www.joeyorty.com/>

Joe Yorty is an interdisciplinary artist who employs a range of materials, objects, and methods to make work that largely addresses the anxieties and absurdities of American domestic culture. Including sculpture, collage, video, and photography, his studio practice grapples with the stuff of thrift store refuse, last-minute estate sale deals, and the occasional dumpster dive. These objects are used to rub against the pathos of the ceaseless search for fulfillment in the accumulation of things that, to a large extent, defines the American experience in the 21st century. His work has been shown on both coasts of the United States and some places in between. Yorty was born in southwest Utah, raised in Southern California, served 11 years in the U.S. Navy, and received an MFA in Visual Art at UCSD in 2013. He currently lives and works in San Diego where he serves as the founding Creative Director for the not-for-profit gallery and project space BEST PRACTICE.



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**October 28, 2023 – January 13, 2024**

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Curated by **Dr. Lara Bullock**, Senior Civic Art Manager, City of San Diego

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