

# THE SAN DIEGO VISUAL ARTS NETWORK

[www.SDVisualArts.net](http://www.SDVisualArts.net) 760.943.0148 [info@SDVisualArts.net](mailto:info@SDVisualArts.net)  
 2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007  
 Public Charity 501 (c) 3 EIN #20-5910283



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Contact: Patricia Frischer [patricia@sdvisualarts.net](mailto:patricia@sdvisualarts.net)

## [2017 New Contemporaries: SD Art Prize Nominated Emerging Artists](#) at [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Show](#)



San Diego, CA – Sept 1, 2017 - [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) is excited to announce the emerging artists chosen for the SD Art Prize from the [2017 New Contemporaries](#). [Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) and [Alexander Kohnke](#) will be the emerging artists for the eleventh year of the [SD ART PRIZE](#). Javier and Kohnke will be exhibiting at the [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Show](#), Sept 28 to Oct 1, 2016 with our community partners [Studio Door](#).

## [2017 New Contemporaries SD Art Prize](#) at [Art San Diego](#)

Presented by our community partners

[Studio Door](#) and [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

**Thursday, Sept 28 to Sun Oct 1, 2017**

**Wyland Center, Del Mar Fairgrounds**

**2260 Jimmy Durante Boulevard, Del Mar, CA 92014**

Please note new dates and new location.

SD Art Prize Emerging Artists

[Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) and [Alexander Kohnke](#) with [Miriam Gabriela Garcia Aguirre](#), [Cathy Breslaw](#), [Michelle Montjoy](#) and [Rebecca L. Webb](#)

Opening reception

Thurs, Sept 28, Preview Party 7 to 9pm

Friday, Sept 29/30 from Noon to 8pm

Sunday, Oct1 from Noon 5pm

[Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) with her secret messages stitched on hidden pictures of people she no longer knows is wistfully strung from threads tangling as they are moved by the breeze. [Alexander Kohnke](#) presents a series of black and white portraits overlaid with tracing paper cut outs of letters and a video mouthing the alphabet. This work is elegant and very professionally produced, intriguing, ugly and beautiful at the same time.

They are joined by four other [2017 New Contemporaries](#) artists: [Miriam Gabriela Garcia Aguirre](#), [Cathy Breslaw](#), [Michelle Montjoy](#) and [Rebecca L. Webb](#).

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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. **New Contemporaries** showcases emerging artist nominated by the SD Art Prize.

**San Diego Visual Arts Network** 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 resource and gets one million hits a year.

**Studio Door** The Studio Door is an arts incubator dedicated to the creative marketplace and the promotion of contemporary artists. The core of our activities are to assist artists with the business side of selling art as well as creating opportunities to bring greater attention to San Diego's visual artists. Located along the 30th Corridor in North Park, The Studio Door showcases a new art gallery, working artists studios, art instruction and art-to-market programming to help promote contemporary artists. Additionally, The Studio Door is a community partner to the regions artists, arts organizations and art industry.

## **Rizzhel Mae Javier**



**Rizzhel Javier** is an artist and educator from San Diego and the Founder of **Bridge**. She is an advocate for arts education and is always looking for opportunities to bring visual arts into the community. Rizzhel uses photography in her personal work, which exist in sculptural forms, to make objects that explore memory, human interaction and relationships. She teaches photography with *The Aja Project*, with displaced children and incarcerated youth, and video at *Pacific Arts Movement* as Instructor for their Documentary Short Film program *Reel Voices*.

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She was nominated by **Melinda Chiment**, executive director, [The Aja Project](#) who said, "To know Rizzhel, or Rizz as I call her, is to know pure talent. Whether creating her own images in the darkroom, leading a class of participants through Juvenile Court and Community Schools or working alongside budding teaching artists through her professional development workshops, Rizz exudes passion for the work. She understands, in the most holistic sense, the power of the arts to change lives and is committed to ensuring access to all youth."

### [Alexander Kohnke](#)



**Alexander Kohnke's** work observes and visualizes the underlying, raw forces of life in our everyday existence. Using a wide range of media and armed with a keen aesthetic and a sense of humor, Kohnke works in drawing, photography, printmaking and video to create work that is both personal and universal. He was born in Germany, lived in Belgium and Switzerland before moving to Los Angeles in 1994 and San Diego in 2014. He holds a BFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. The art work of Alexander Kohnke has been shown in San Diego and L.A., most recently at a solo exhibition at Airlock Gallery in San Marcos. He was nominated by **Debra Poteet**, collector who said, "I first saw the work of Alexander Kohnke some two years ago when he was part of the group show, "(Con)Text" at the San Diego Art Institute. What first appeared to be a simple series of small drawings of a man making unusual faces gained meaning, and indeed context, when I realized that the man was mouthing the letters of the alphabet. Over the next several months, I continued to run across Alex's work, and it never ceased to amaze me. Working in drawing, photography, printmaking and video, Alex combines humor, a unique vision and great technical skill to create works that are both thought provoking and universal."

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**Miriam Gabriela Garcia Aguirre** is a historian and poet who recently began to produce visual arts. She participated in an intense art workshop (Programa de Production de Arte Contemporáneo) at [Relaciones Inesperadas](#) (Tijuana), which is an independent organization interested in the experimentation, reflection, and creation in contemporary art. Her project *Bordarse/To Embroider Oneself* explores the relationship between women's body, affective bonds, self-representation and memory. From writing, appropriation of objects and embroidery her work traces a search for narratives about transformation and human relationships. **Norma V Iglesias-Prieto**, Ph.D. Professor Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies says of this artist, "Aguirre enters the visual arts world with a collection of small format pieces, made from old recuperated clothes that once belonged to family members....The production of her pieces may seem simple, but there is great contrast with a profound narrative in her conceptual statement."



Using a painter's aesthetic **Cathy Breslaw** continually experiments with accessible commercial materials to create concepts of light, space, and the interconnected ephemeral nature of life. She holds an MFA from Claremont Graduate University where she received two fellowships. Cathy Breslaw has been featured in 35 solo and 50 group exhibitions across the U.S. in museums, art centers, college, university and commercial galleries. Breslaw lectures and is a contributing arts writer to several publications and blog [www.artfullifebycathy.blogspot.com](http://www.artfullifebycathy.blogspot.com). San Diego Home and Garden Magazine named Breslaw as a 'Star of San Diego', 2016. **Patricia Frischer, coordinator, San Diego Visual Arts Network** says, "When you watch an artist develop over many years, you begin to understand the visual language that they use. The simple netting that she discovered has become her alphabet. She can make it appear as light as air or as tortured as steel and all the stages in between."

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**Michelle Montjoy** is a multi-disciplinary artist whose recent work encompasses social practice, installation and textile based art. Using familiar techniques and materials, Montjoy's objects and images often employ absurdity, obsessiveness and whimsy. A 2016 recipient of San Diego Foundation's Creative Catalyst grant, Montjoy's project, *River*, brought oversized table top looms to 32 communities, engaging over 1000 people in knitting material made from used t-shirts into yards-long forms. She spent many years teaching art in public schools. Michelle Montjoy lives and works in Oceanside. Her colleague, **William Feeney** says, "Michelle Montjoy's art is handmade in a way that explains its existence in the world: doable, accessible, and open."



**Rebecca Webb** is a fine art photographer who visually investigates the dynamics of human relationships and the connection between identity and the places people inhabit. She has worked on documentaries and feature films with directors such as William Klein, Darren Arronofsky and Hal Hartley.. Webb also explores the future of NextGen film-going and making. **Neil Kendrick**s says, "As an artist and fine-art photographer, Rebecca Louise Webb is a miracle worker with fleeting images flashing before her eyes. The Virginia-born artist is always searching for her next picture; a seeker forever on the lookout for arresting images to materialize out of the chaos of ordinary life."

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Images available on request. Contact: Patricia Frischer [patricia@sdvisualarts.net](mailto:patricia@sdvisualarts.net)