



**[NEW CONTEMPORARIES VI](#) at [Sparks Gallery](#)**

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

June 1 to 30th, 2013

**Emerging Artists:**

[Jennifer Anderson](#) nominated by [Arline Fisch](#), Artist

[Irene de Watteville](#) nominated by [Jeffery Laudenslager](#), Artist

[Michelle Kurtis Cole](#) nominated by [Patricia Frischer](#), [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

[Franco Mendez Calvillo](#) nominated by [Debra Poteet](#), Collector, [SD Art Prize](#) committee

[James Enos](#) nominated by [Ann Berchtold](#), [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair](#)

[Brennan Hubbell](#) nominated by [James Hubbell](#), Artist

[Sonia López-Chávez](#) nominated by [Sonya Sparks](#), [Sparks Gallery](#)

[Marie Najera](#) nominated by [Deanne Sabeck](#), Artist

[Timothy Earl Neill](#) nominated by [Catherine Gleason](#), Associate Director, [SDSU Downtown Gallery](#)

[Griselda Rosas](#) Nominated by [Vincent Robles](#), Artist

[Ilanit Shalev](#) Nominated by [Betsy Lane](#), [Betsy Lane Art](#)

[Anna Stump](#) Nominated by [Erika Torri](#), [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

**June 1 to June 30, 2013**

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 8 from 7pm-10pm

[Sparks Gallery](#)

530 Sixth Avenue, San Diego 92101

Sonya Sparks [Sonya@sparksgallery.com](mailto:Sonya@sparksgallery.com)



**New Contemporaries IV: Emerging Artists nominated by SD Art Professionals at Susan Street Fine Art Gallery**

The 2012 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. Susan Street and Melissa Sager of Susan Street Fine Art Gallery made the choice of works by these artists, working diligently to showcase each artist so they could be seen in the best possible light. The SD Art Prize is extremely grateful to them for their efforts on our behalf. We hope viewers support this exhibition not only with your attendance but with the purchase of the works by these up and coming creative talents. Our thanks to [Rosemary KimBal](#) for editing and proofing on this catalog.



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.

**Award Recipients for 2006/2007**

**Raul Guerrero** with emerging artist **Yvonne Venegas**  
**Jean Lowe** with emerging artist **Iana Quesnell**  
**Ernest Silva** with emerging artist **May-ling Martinez**

**Award Recipients for 2007/2008**

**Marcos Ramirez ERRE** with emerging artist **Allison Wiese**  
**Roman De Salvo** with emerging artist **Lael Corbin**  
**Eleanor Antin** with emerging artist **Pamela Jaeger**

**Award Recipients for 2009**

**Kim MacConnel** with emerging artist  
**Brian Dick**  
**Richard Allen Morris** with emerging  
artist **Tom Driscoll**

**Award Recipients for 2010**

**Gail Roberts** with emerging artist  
**David Adey**  
**Einar and Jamex de la Torre** with  
emerging artist **Julio Orozco**

**Award Recipients for 2012**

**Arline Fisch** with emerging artist  
**Vincent Robles**  
**Jeffery Laudenslager** with  
emerging artist **Deanne Sabeck**

**Award Recipients for 2011**

**Jay S. Johnson** with emerging  
artist **Adam Belt**  
**Rubén Ortiz-Torres** with emerg-  
ing artist **Tristan Shone**

THE **Goals of the SD ART PRIZE**, as presented by the San Diego Visual Arts Network, are to:

- Recognize and celebrate existing visual art accomplishments by spotlighting local artists.
- Create an exciting event that facilitates cross-pollination between cultural organizations and strengthens and invigorates the San Diego Visual Art Scene.
- Broaden the audience of the visual arts in San Diego by gaining national attention to the competition through a dedicated media campaign.
- Promote the vision of the future role that the visual arts will play in the San Diego community as lively, thriving, positive and empowering.
- Expand the infrastructure of spokespeople/art celebrities who can bring awareness to San Diego and perform as role models for our student artists.

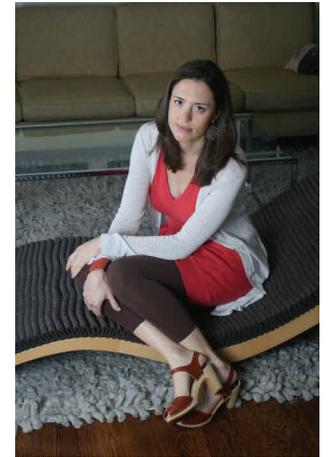
[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

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



## Jennifer Anderson

Jennifer Anderson divides her time between building speculative and commissioned pieces and teaching art at a variety of colleges in the San Diego area as well as institutions including Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Snowmass, Colorado and Penland School of Crafts in Penland, NC. Her art is exhibited nationally and internationally and can be seen in publications including *Interior Design* and *American Craft*. In 2010, the Chipstone Foundation acquired her work for their permanent collection which was displayed at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Most recently (2013), Jennifer Anderson has an installation on view at the New Children's Museum in San Diego, CA.



nominated by **Arline Fisch**, artist

Jennifer Anderson's diverse educational background enables her to move freely between furniture making and larger installation pieces. Her continuing interest in environmental concerns informs all of her recent work whether chairs or site specific sculptural compositions such as the Urban Trees project on San Diego's waterfront and her recent piece at the New Children's Museum in San Diego.

Meticulous craftsmanship and careful attention to detail characterize all of her work. The boxes and cabinets invite one to touch sensuous surfaces and to explore hidden interiors; the chairs combine concept with function, challenging the nature of furniture. Her large sculptural piece shown at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido in 2010 remain in my memory as a potent statement about the environment but also as a quiet poem about the beauty of trees.



## Irene de Watteville

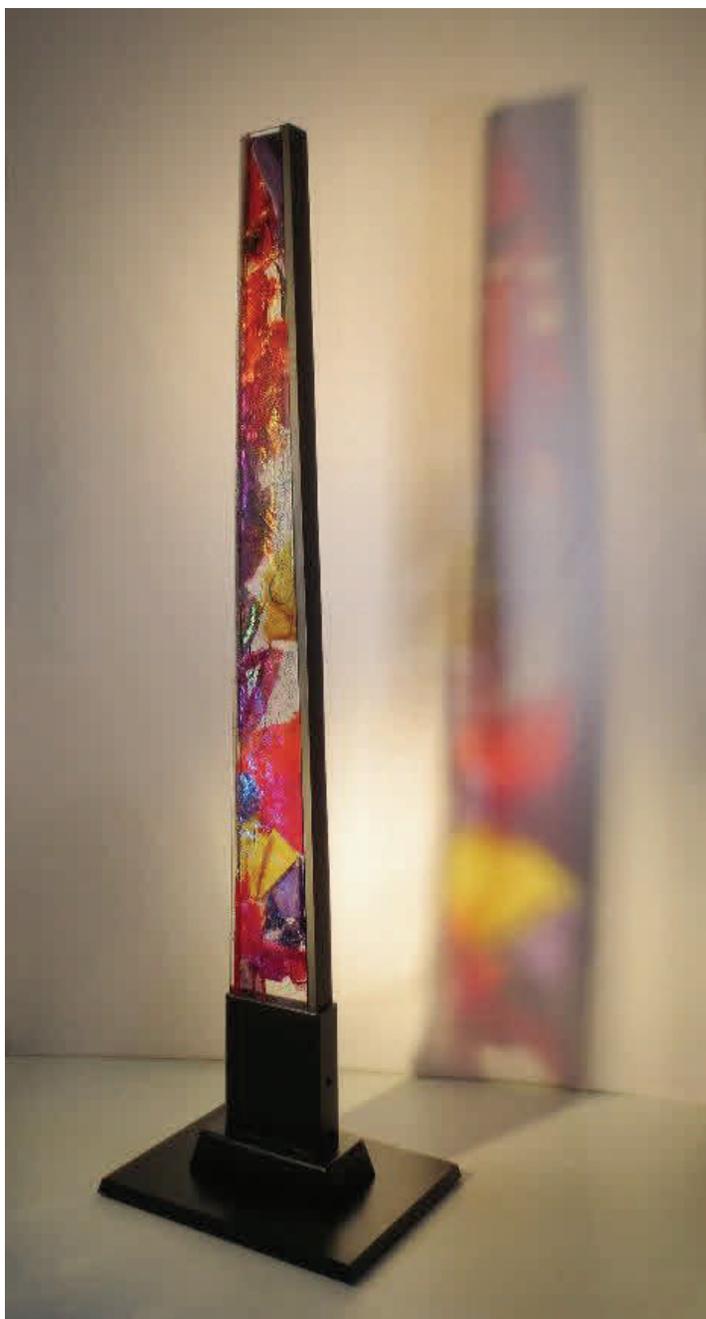
Irène de Watteville is a French born artist. In 1963 she moved to the US and graduated from the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. As a child in Alsace Fr, she would sit on the warm steps of a 17<sup>th</sup> century stove decorated in blue and white tiles; indubitably, European decorative arts have influenced her sense of aesthetics that keeps on oozing in her work with a touch of mischievousness. She has worked in lithographs, etchings, embroidery, papier-mâché, collage, tiles, photo transfer, sculpture and painting. But her favorite material is clay glazed with a majolica glaze: it is lickable.



nominated by **Jeffery Laudenslager**

Irene De Watteville's work embodies a sort of romantic yet cunningly contemporary look at her world. Techniques and images refer to the 17th-18th century but convey a sort of relaxed contemporary California attitude towards sex and pleasure in general. Her attention to detail is not lost in this sensual quest, but celebrated and triumphant: Her cupboard of ceramic naughtiness is there for your own personal, delightful adventure.





## [Michelle Kurtis Cole](#)

Michelle Kurtis Cole has worked in virtually every form of glass art since the 1970's. Always an innovator, her 2012 exhibitions at the L Street Gallery in downtown San Diego drew praise not only for their striking organic beauty, but also for the unprecedented combinations of techniques used to create them: kiln casting, manual manipulation of molten glass, controlled color reactions, engraving, and customized lighting. Cole says, "I'm inspired by my heritage—Native American, African American, and Scottish-Irish—each with its own deep connection to nature. I love the challenges and endless possibilities the amazing, ancient medium of glass gives me to express feelings from all times in my life." Cole studied at Maryland Institute College of Art, The Studio at Corning and the Pilchuck Glass School, with international masters including Jiri Hrcuba and Alena Matejkova of the Czech Republic, Kimiake and Shinichi Higuchi of Japan, Richard Whiteley of Australia, and many others.



nominated by **Patricia Frischer**, coordinator  
[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

The glass "paintings" of Michelle Kurtis Cole are radiant and seductive. These are not pieces of glass that are painted on but glass that is manipulated while red hot into controlled compositions. Yes, there is an element of happy accident, but Ms. Cole has a second sense of how the glass will perform and she channels her very potent energy and extreme knowledge of the material to coax luminous lines and rushes of intense color into slabs of glass that are very covetable.



## [Franco Mendez Calvillo](#)

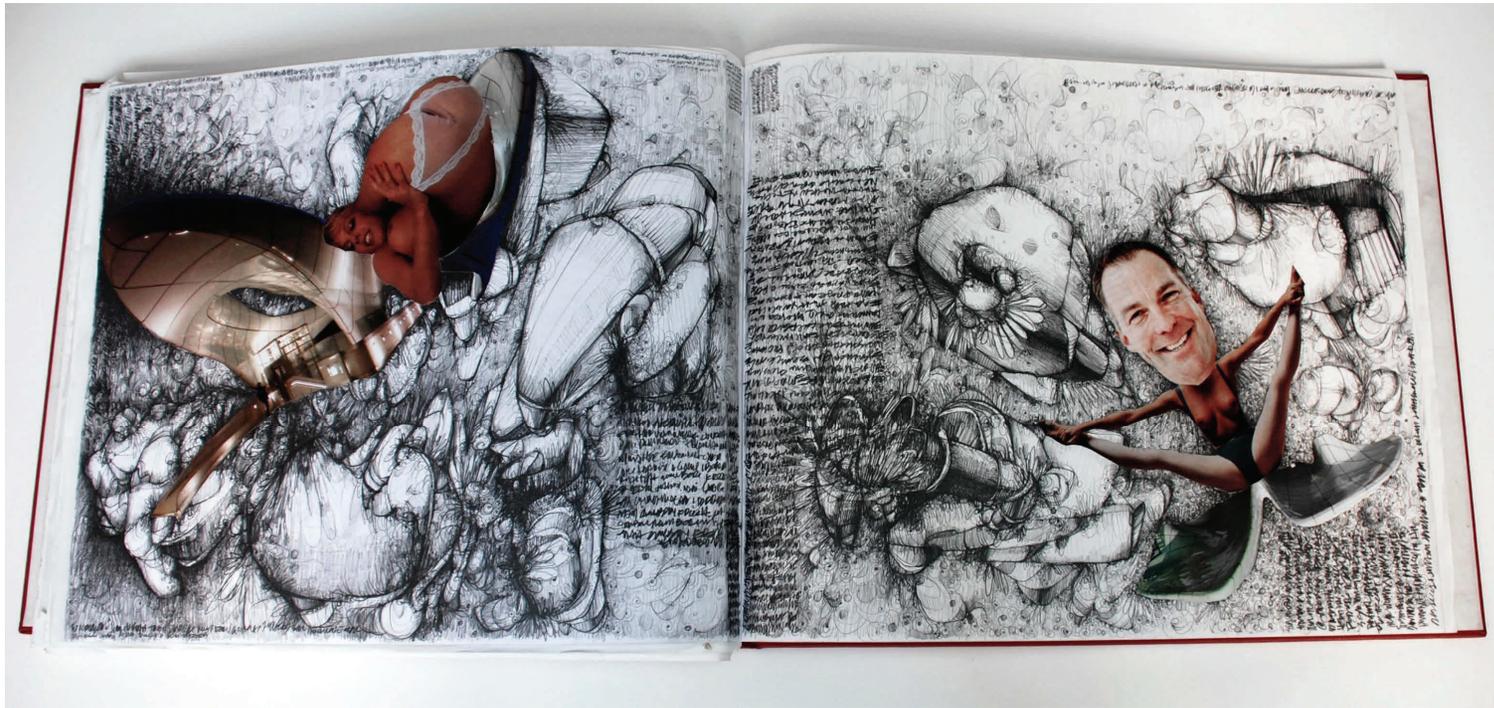
Neoexpressionist and investigator in the field of aesthetics, Franco Mendez Calvillo is an internationally known artist who has used technology from the reserve guard as a proposal for visual poetry. Formally a medical doctor, his art work has traveled in exhibitions to Tokyo, Rumania and Cuba as well as different regions in Mexico and California including *Guerra Florida/ Passport Clandestine*, Mexican Cultural Institute, Los Angeles. Franco Mendez Calvillo is represented by [La Caja Galeria](#), Tijuana.



nominated by **Debra Poteet, Collector,**  
[SD Art Prize](#) committee

We love to discover new artists wherever they might be. Validation by museums or galleries is not necessary before we go on a voyage of artistic discovery. To that end we

were told about Franco Mendez Calvillo by another artist friend of ours who also has a studio in Tijuana. We drove to the border and crossed by foot into Mexico and met Franco. Franco had unfortunately forgotten the keys to the studio, but given our desire to see his work, and I being the most agile of our group, I crawled into the 12 inch x 12 inch open studio window and was able to release the door from the inside for all. The first paintings I saw on the wall were beautifully rendered anthropomorphic objects swimming or floating through space. The surfaces were rough, the colors both muted and oddly bright. The images were mesmerizing and somehow foreboding. I finally asked Franco what the paintings were about, and he told me that the series of images were called *Floaters*. They depicted the many Mexican people who had lost their lives trying to cross a certain stretch of the Rio Grande river illegally into the United States. This was about 6 years ago and I have not been able to forget about these images. Franco began painting later in life after a career as a gastroenterologist in Mexico. His figures appear simply rendered but upon closer examination one finds Franco playing with perspective and perception. His themes are both shocking and wry comments on popular culture. The best thing I can say about Franco's work is that it is unforgettable and is the reason for my nomination.



## James Enos

James Enos is a concept designer, artist, curator, maker, educator, and researcher formally trained as an architect with a background in computer information systems and manufacturing. He is interested in people and locating shared values. His efforts

are rigorously interdisciplinary. Beyond cultural production, his contributions can be read as quantifiable research within numerous theoretical discourses. Holding graduate degrees in both Visual Art and Architecture, the locus of his contributions lay inside the production of timely and progressive architectures, theoretical texts, models, program-based visualizations, and much more tangible modes of community engagement. Enos works from deep within a tactical culture aimed towards interrogating contemporary urbanisms, however he ultimately serves very ground level, humble, and simple project purposes i.e. pursuing sustainable, inclusive, and collaborative outcomes that account for an ecological consciousness as well as serving to illuminate humanist perspectives. His degrees include MFA (UCSD), M.Arch (NSAD), B.S. Technology (Purdue).

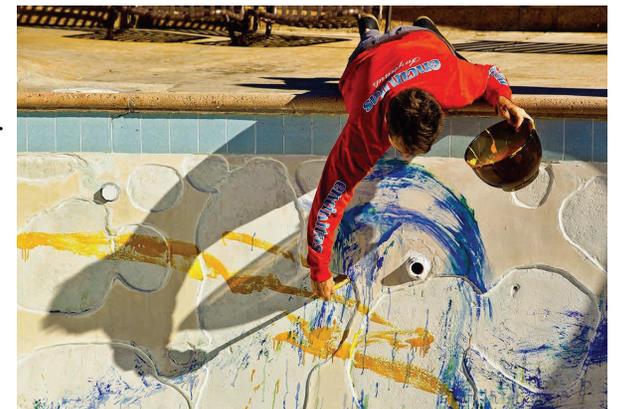
nominated by **Ann Berchtold**, [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair](#)

My first exposure to the work of James Enos was at the “Here Not There: San Diego Art Now” exhibition at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. His piece *Clairemont Erasure* is visually stunning, masterfully crafted, and provides a poignant commentary on California “tract-style” communities – in this case, Clairemont, CA. Curiosity encouraged me to delve deeper into his work – which led me to The Periscope Project, a unique studio/gallery/educational space created out of shipping containers. Like his artwork, The Periscope Project is committed to the “nexus of art, architecture, and regional urban issues.” it serves as a laboratory to discuss, display, and propose solutions for urban development dilemmas.



## Brennan Hubbell

Brennan Hubbell (b. 1968) began creating art as soon as he could walk. Even as a kindergartener, he helped build Ilan-Lael, the art and nature center, which is now home to his parents Anne and James Hubbell and Hubbell Studios. Growing up in the country, he learned how to live and create in tandem with the outside environment. With the nature-loving seed planted at a young age he continued creating nature-based art through early adulthood. His work is wide ranging from large public sculptures to smaller commissions in a variety of materials including mosaic, wood, iron and featuring often water and light. He also works in video documentation. James Hubbell is a student of people foremost and his art springs from his observations in humans in the natural environment. Hubbell attended Webb Academy in Claremont, California for high school, then went on to major in Fine Arts at St. Olaf College in Minnesota. In his twenties he studied permaculture in Oaxaca, Mexico under the instruction of Chuck Marsh, the North Carolina-based permaculturalist and designer. As a father of two young children, Brennan Hubbell hopes to pass on a love for art and nature to future generations.





## [Sonia López-Chávez](#)

For Sonia Lopez-Chavez, the pursuit of passion and beauty has been her calling since inception. Born in the vibrant city of Guanajuato, Mexico, at an early age Sonia moved to San Diego and has remained ever-since, ever inspired by the gorgeous scenery and diverse culture. Lopez-Chavez's work embodies pulsating color schemes and themes of heritage as based off her own vivid Mexican background and childhood. Often featuring strong feminine forms Sonia seeks to capture the inner and outer beauty of each individual portrayed. Sonia's work encapsulates scenes full of equally as ingratiating personalities. Often juxtaposed with natural elements, the Southern California setting of San Diego has provided plenty of inspiration providing not only cityscape but also serene mountains and coastlines. She has been in multiple group art shows through out San Diego, Sacramento, and Los Angeles. Sonia Lopez-Chavez had her first solo art show at The Spot Gallery in Barrio Logan 2012. She is currently working on her next solo exhibition.



nominated by **Sonya Sparks**, [Sparks Gallery](#)

It was long ago that I met Sonia Lopez-Chavez. I remember playground games, writing assignments, assemblies, and fire drills together. Since we shared the same first name, she was known to the teachers as Sonia L, and I was Sonya W. Little did I know that our paths would cross again in the art world almost 20 years later, which came as quite a surprise to both of us. Just like her personality and demeanor, Sonia's work is elegant and sincere. One may discover a youthful playfulness in her work. Sonia delivers raw, yet sensual, portraits of empowered female forms. Her passion for natural beauty shines through. Many of her pieces feature icons and elements from Mexican culture, celebrating an integral part of her core being. Her first solo exhibit, "Transition" was a collaboration with her business partner Enrique "Chikle" Lugo. She continues to support local and emerging artists through her curatorial work at The Spot and other venues in San Diego.



## Marie Najera

All Marie Najera's works share a common theme of composition via layering. Her approach to creating artwork is honest and raw, allowing the viewer to see stories that are half told. Her paintings are inhabited by words, numbers, and common objects, representing everyday life. Even Najera's two-dimensional works possess a three-dimensional quality, each rich and sincere. Najera was born in San Diego California and is a self-taught artist with over 20 years of experience in painting, drawing, and mixed media sculpture. Najera has shown her work throughout the United States, and has been featured in numerous group and solo exhibitions.



nominated by **Deanne Sabeck**, artist

I regard Marie Najera as an artist with a great deal of courage, commitment and passion. I see this in both her personal life and her work. Her strength and sensual nature are mirrored in her art. She is always moving forward even in the face of adversity. Ever since I have known her, she seems to do whatever it takes to keep doing art. Her paintings weave a quiet story full of mystery utilizing a complex intertwining of childlike playfulness with dark undertones. I find that combination very captivating indeed.



## [Timothy Earl Neill](#)

Timothy Earl Neill's (b. 1983, San Diego) work investigates embedded ideologies within quotidian objects and monuments, addressing the relationship between the geographic site and architecture, and the entanglement between preservation and entropy. Through sculpture, installation, drawing, photography, and film, Neill examines the methods by which utopian paradigms are both preserved yet simultaneously, as a parallel component, destroyed. Neill's work confronts the fragile notions of ideological stability dominating cultural modes of thought, stretching back from the most advanced architecture of ancient civilizations too the present fixation with aerospace discovery and achievement. Timothy Earl Neill holds a BFA (2008) from California College of the Arts located in San Francisco.



nominated by **Catherine Gleason**, Associate Director, [SDSU Downtown Gallery](#)

A sense of beauty and mystery coexist in the work of Timothy Earl Neill. Here the past and present collide, revealing ruins as well as protean hybrids in an examination of architecture and landscape in which both are simultaneously deconstructed and re-imagined.

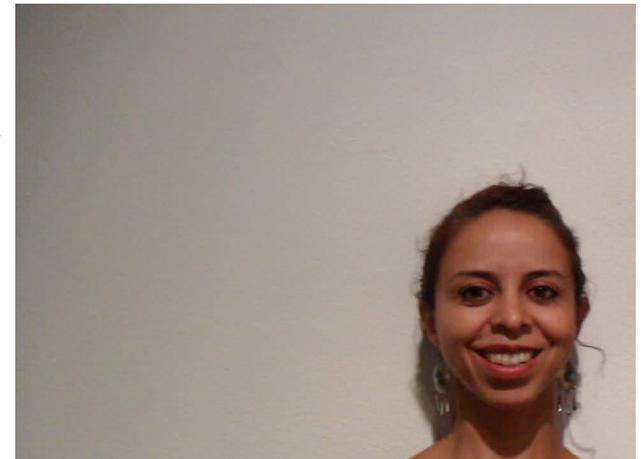


## Griselda Rosas

Tijuana born artist Griselda Rosas avoids the 'border artist' category because her life and work transcend the political and geographical limits imposed by the so-called 'wall' that divides Mexico and the U.S. Obsessed by the textures and material composition of every-day objects she usually finds at the markets in her hometown, such as ropes, fabric, and soap, as well as by culinary elements such as fish and salt, Rosas's work points to a poetic process of semiotic disruption. Decontextualizing and juxtaposing these raw materials in each of her pieces, Rosas manages to liberate the elements from their original functionality offering, in the end, a re-signified and complex contemplative object. Organic in their forms and rich in meaning, Griselda's sculptures confront the viewer with a not so easily identified materiality that nonetheless seduces the space they occupy. Currently, Griselda Rosas is a grad student at San Diego State University, constantly exhibiting in the San Diego-Tijuana region.

Nominated by **Vincent Robles**, artist

I had the privilege to cross paths with Griselda Rosas at San Diego State University about seven years ago. It was in a beginning sculpture class that I first noticed the power that emanated from Griselda and her work. Her consideration for detail and interest in working with conventional materials gave her an edge in our class and demanded my attention. Griselda and I currently have the unique opportunity to share our graduate experience together; her focus in sculpture, mine in furniture design. Her work has not only evolved since college but has grown into a myriad of beautiful forms laden with associations to Mexican culture and traditions, her relationship to the earth and social issues, which transcend effortlessly through her work. Griselda's forms are not only seductive but they possess a raw, visceral nature retaining a sense of authenticity; making her a true Artist of our time.





## [Ilanit Shalev](#)

Ilanit Shalev creates her minimalist but very powerful sculptures by casting glass. Her influences vary from a passionate study of colors, transparency and translucency, all main qualities of glass. She has studied at both, Pilchuck, WA and Corning, NY, to challenge herself, improve her knowledge about glass and learn more techniques. Eastern and Western world influences have played a major part in her creations. Her inspiration continues to grow from her experience within and flourish with the beauty of life. Residing today in San Diego, CA, her work can be found in various galleries across the west coast as well as her homeland Israel.



nominated by **Betsy Lane**, [Betsy Lane Art](#)

One needs to see the sculptures by glass artist Ilanit Shalev in person to fully appreciate the subtle beauty of her pieces. The play of light enhances the objects dramatically. Her series entitled *Relationships* are two pieces connected to form one sculpture. Ilanit started this series while thinking about how two strong personalities in a relationship need to adjust to show the new situation. Something is given up in order to make the new shape strong. Her use of color in these pieces blend vibrant and cool, dark and light, and leaves a very dramatic effect on the viewer.

## [Anna Stump](#)



Anna Stump's work as a painter, performance artist, and curator is intimately connected. Her interest in body politics, feminism, and physicality is grounded in community building and education. She is challenged personally by cultural risk-taking and sees her job both to please and provoke. Stump earned her BA at Occidental College and MFA at San Diego State University. She was a Senior Fulbright Scholar at Anadolu University in Eskisehir, Turkey in 2006-2007. She teaches studio and art history courses at San Diego City College, Grossmont College and the New School of Architecture and Design. Stump is the founder of the Feminist Image Group and a member of Mid-Air Trio, which improvises combining painting, dance and sound in live performances. She is represented by MLA Gallery in Los Angeles and Sanatyapim Gallery in Ankara, Turkey.

nominated by **Erika Torri**, [Atheneum Music & Arts Library](#)

We recommend Anna Stump, because at the Athenaeum's 20th Juried exhibition in 2010 she made a big impression on us and the jurors Kathleen Kanjo from MCASD and Joseph Bellows from Bellows Gallery. In her whimsical Piñata Studies, images of the Mexican party favors in the shapes of rockets, dinosaurs or dolls, dangle in the air, painted with gouache on newspaper ads for grocery stores. Through our common interest in food and parties, Stump creates a light-hearted connection between the cultures on both sides of the border



in



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

SDVAN is a database of information produced to improve the clarity, accuracy and sophistication of discourse about San Diego's artistic and cultural life and is dedicated to the idea that the Visual Arts are a vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN hosts a free interactive directory (over 1600 resources listed) and an events calendar covering all San Diego regions including Baja Norte with an opportunity section, gossip column and the SmART Collector feature to help take the mystery out of buying art. SDVAN is the proud non-profit sponsor of the SD Art Prize. This is the only site designed exclusively for the San Diego region and the Visual Arts and is one of the most technically advanced sites of this kind in the country. SDVAN currently gets 3-4000 unique visitors per month and over one million hits a year.



### [Sparks Gallery](#)

The Sparks Gallery represents, emerging, professional and student artists in the San Diego region and is located in the Gaslamp district of downtown San Diego



### [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Fair](#)

Art San Diego has designated the San Diego Art Prize as its non-profit beneficiary for specified events and will be showcasing the SD Art Prize recipients each Fall.

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

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

**New Contemporaries I:** [Alida Cervantes](#), [Allison Wiese](#), [Andy Howell](#), [Ben Lavender](#), [Brad Streeper](#), [Brian Dick](#), [Camilo Ontiveros](#), [Lael Corbin](#), [Christopher N. Ferreria](#), [Jason Sherry](#), [Matt Devine](#), [Pamela Jaeger](#), [Nina Karavasiles](#), [Tania Candiani](#), [Nina Waisman](#), [Shannon Spanhake](#), [Tristan Shone](#)

**New Contemporaries II:** [David Adey](#), [Tania Alcalá](#), [Michele Guieu](#), [Keikichi Honna](#), [Omar Pimienta](#), [Daniel Ruanova](#), [Marisol Rendon](#), [Tara Smith](#), [Matt Stallings](#), [K.V. Tomney](#), [Jen Trute](#), [Gustabo Velasquez](#), [Yuransky](#)

**New Contemporaries III:** [Greg Boudreau](#), [Kelsey Brookes](#), [Stephen Curry](#), [Steve Gibson](#), [Brian Goeltzenleuchter](#), [Wendell M. Kling](#), [Heather Gwen Martin](#), [Robert Nelson](#), [Julio Orozco](#), [Allison Renshaw](#), [Leshia Maria Rodriguez](#), [James Soe Nyun](#), [Stephen Tompkins](#)

**New Contemporaries IV:** [Mely Barragan](#), [Adam Belt](#), [Susannah Bielak](#), [Fred Briscoe](#), [Isaias Crow](#), [Shay Davis](#), [Damian Gastellum](#), [Gretchen Mercedes](#), [Han Nguyen](#), [Jaime Ruiz Otis](#), [Lee Puffer](#), [Christopher Puzio](#), [Cheryl Sorg](#)

**New Contemporaries V:** [Shawnee Barton](#), [Lauren Carerra](#), [Noah Doely](#), [Rob Duarte](#), [Alexander Jarman](#), [Anna Chiarella Lavatelli](#), [Lee M. Lavy](#), [Ingram Ober](#), [Vincent Robles](#), [Deanne Sabeck](#), [David Leon Smith](#), [Brian Zimmerman](#)



### [The Athenaeum Music and Arts Library](#)

in La Jolla showcases the recipients of the SD Art Prize each Spring.

ATHENAEUM  
MUSIC & ARTS LIBRARY