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## THE SAN DIEGO VISUAL ARTS NETWORK

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### **San Diego Art Prize 2018 Artists Announced at Athenaeum Music & Arts Library Reception**

*San Diego, May 11, 2018* - We are pleased to announce the four artist recipients of the 2018 SD Art Prize. Each established artist has chosen an emerging artist to share the exhibition in 2019 at the Athenaeum Music & Arts Library in La Jolla. Established artist [Anne Mudge](#) with emerging artist [Erin Dace Behling](#) and established artist [Robert Matheny](#) with emerging artist [Max Robert Daily](#) were recognized for 2018 at the opening reception for the 2017 artists [Cy Kuchenbaker](#) with [Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) and [Fu/Rich](#) with [Alexander Kohnke](#).

**Anne Mudge** creates ethereal environments of complicated wire works that looked amazingly fragile but turned out to be as resilient as its creator. Tension wire and physics keep these very organic works afloat. Mudge says there are challenges and, "...magic moments of discovery." **Erin Dace Behling** shares geometry and repetition of form as elements in her furniture design. They are both creating landscapes because they are arranging biological components into a sort of scenery but Behling is using a wider variety of materials and her work are functional. She uses very familiar components but in unfamiliar ways.

**Robert Matheny** has played with every medium and combines strong conceptual art ideas with a tangible product which is almost never functional. He is a master trickster with a sense of humor of the cynical variety and the constant surprise of never knowing what he will do next. His choice of **Max Robert Daily** makes so much sense once you know that Daily is a butcher and puppeteer and art installer by trade and the proprietor of Oslo sardine bar, really an art installation at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan. For \$25, you and three paying friends get tins of sardines, a couple beverages to rinse them back and, if you tip accordingly, god knows what else.

#### **San Diego Art Prize 2018**

Established artist [Anne Mudge](#) with emerging artist [Erin Dace Behling](#)  
Established artist [Robert Matheny](#) with emerging artist [Max Robert Daily](#)

Spring, 2019 Date TBD

[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

1008 Wall St. La Jolla, 92037

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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.

**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

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are a necessary and vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN list over 2500 visual arts resources and gets about one million hits a year.

**[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)** The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library has earned a reputation as one of the outstanding art galleries and art collectors in San Diego. The Athenaeum's art exhibition program, begun in the 1920s, has grown tremendously. Exhibitions in the Joseph Clayes III Gallery focus on nationally and internationally recognized artists. The Rotunda Gallery emphasizes community partnerships or emerging regional artists. The North Reading Room is devoted to showcasing the Athenaeum's Erika and Fred Torri Artists' Books Collection.



"Sphere 2" Photo credit © Anne Mudge by Tim Hardy, Photo courtesy Quint Gallery

**[Anne Mudge](#)** is a nationally acclaimed sculptor and public artist who lives and works in northern San Diego County on a property shared by her nurseryman husband. The specialized landscapes of his trade have frequently informed her work, as do her daily nature walks, which she documents through photographs. The core of her work has to do with process. Whether it's as simple as working in call and response to the materials at hand in her studio or working within the context of a public space, she looks for the living edge – that liminal space that only reveals itself when the initial conditions of environment, materials, and conceptual intent engage in a kind of dance. Mudge likes being surprised by outcomes that defy meddling preconceptions and exhibit the rich complexity of innumerable inputs, resulting in an unexpected synthesis. She often employs labor-intensive collaborations with materials and processes to reference living forms and systems. She has a passion for the environment and a belief that opening pathways to experiencing it is critical to our wellbeing, and that art plays an important role in awakening our senses to the multiplicities of colors and sounds and textures that too often escape our notice within our cloistered human surroundings.

Mudge has shown in San Diego at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego Museum of Art, California Center for the Arts Museum, as well as the List Visual Arts Center at M.I.T., Delaware Center for Contemporary Art, Metropolitan Museum and Art Center in Coral Gables, Florida and at numerous college and university galleries. Her public art commissions include the North Park Gateway at University Avenue and Boundary Street, San Diego; the San Diego State University Transit Center, which was awarded the Grand Orchid under sponsorship by the San Diego Architectural Foundation; curbside seating for Lindbergh Field at the San Diego International Airport; suspended sculptures for the County of San Diego's Planning and Permit Building; and interpretive mosaics of the surrounding natural habitat for the City of Moorpark, CA. She is represented by [Quint Gallery](#), San Diego.

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**[Erin Dace Behling](#)** is a designer, furniture maker and educator based in San Diego, CA. She holds an MFA from San Diego State University and BFA from Herron School of Art & Design; both degrees were emphasized in furniture design and woodworking. Behling currently teaches at community colleges in the greater San Diego area. She has shown work at several galleries in Southern California including Lois Lambert Gallery of Functional Art, The La Jolla Athenaeum, Alexander Salazar White Box Contemporary, William D. Cannon Art Gallery, Art SD Contemporary show. In her work, Behling utilizes the language of furniture to explore various mediums such as wood, fiberglass, plastic, concrete, foam, asphalt shingles and fibers, while striving to arrange a setting where they are able to cohesively exist. In her current series, Candyland, Behling explores geometry as she is interested in the repetitious nature and how shapes can result in forms through this repetitious patterning and mathematical formulas. She is drawn to these forms as they are calming yet mystical and often found in nature. She spends time in the desert, exploring the subtleties of life within the harsh environment, finding hints of color in a sea of seemingly flat, neutral tones. Erin Behling depicts this beauty by creating functional furniture forms and seeks to create a landscape within each object.



**[Robert Matheny](#)** made his first painting and first sculpture, as an adult, in 1963 and has been making art ever since because it pleased and challenged his intellect. He likes solving problems and using new materials and especially likes working with ideas. He is a sculptor, painter, jeweler, graphic designer, filmmaker, small press operator, and performer. He was founder of the art department and gallery at Southwestern College. They owe their permanent collection of contemporary art to him, as well as great exhibitions including the art of John Baldessari in 1962, the very first show. Since his retirement in 1991, he has completed many different series of work spending just about every day in his studio. Matheny studied under art department chair John Olsen, Stan Hodge and others at Long Beach State College. He earned a MA degree in art education. He has had a museum show at the CECUT in Tijuana, Mexico, numerous one-person shows in San Diego including the Nexus Gallery in La Jolla and a few group shows in the Los Angeles area. Bob Matheny cannot imagine not making art.

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**[Max Robert Daily](#)** is a San Diego based artist working in visual art and performance, incorporating media ranging from drawing and sculptor, to puppetry and mime. Along with being a published author of children's illustration books, Daily is a butcher by trade and the proprietor of Oslo sardine bar-cum-installation artwork at Bread & Salt in Barrio Logan. Prior to attending the prestigious Cotsen Center for Puppetry at CalArts, Daily was a student of set design at San Diego City College and resident puppeteer at the Marie Hitchcock Puppet Theater in Balboa Park. Daily remains an avid advocate of the Balboa-based Theater where he also received the Jim Henson Family grant award for his production of Peter and the Wolf.

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