

THE SAN DIEGO VISUAL ARTS NETWORK



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[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) selects a new administrator to restructure the [San Diego Art Prize](#).



SAN DIEGO (May 9, 2019) – San Diego Visual Arts Network is pleased to announce that Chi Essary has been selected as the new administrator of the San Diego Art Prize. Over the next year Essary will be streamlining and restructuring the prize to focus solely on artists of excellence, increasing the prize's visibility and building public engagement.

The SD Art Prize matched established and emerging artists, but in 2020, taking its inspiration from UK's Turner Prize, it will mature into a prize with an on emphasis on our local artists. The Art Prize Committee and an independent panel of judges selected from the arts community of museum directors, journalists, curators, educators, etc., will submit nominations for emerging artists who have exhibited outstanding creativity in the last three years. Four nominees will be chosen from the nomination list for an exhibit at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) in May of 2020 when the winner will be announced.

"I'm looking forward to streamlining the Art Prize and building its reputation and audience. It's a valued milestone in the artist community and I'd like to build the general public's interest in the prize and the emerging artists we have right here in San Diego." **Chi Essary**, new curator of the SD Art Prize

"We feel really fortunate to put the SD Art Prize into the capable hands of Chi Essary who will breathe new life into this time honored award for excellence." **Patricia Frischer**, founder and coordinator of the [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) which funds and produces the [San Diego Art Prize](#).

CHI ESSARY is a curator, artist, writer and photographer. Her cross-disciplinary exhibitions bring artists together with other fields of creative inquiry such as contemporary literature and science. She is a firm believer that "the best gift to humanity is bringing people together." In 2017 she curated *Extra-Ordinary Collusion*, pairing almost 50 scientists and

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artists to promote and explore the intersection of art and science with the public. She also curated several lofts for *SENSORIUM* which was featured on the NatGeo Channel. She studied at Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon and has an active practice in oil painting and found objects. A board member of Vanguard Culture since 2014, Essary has applied her talents as a photographer toward content management of Vanguard's social media pages. She also writes and photographs for her artist studio visit series: [Poetic License](#). Having traveled extensively in Europe and Mexico assisting the multimedia artists, The de la Torre Brothers, with their museum residencies and exhibitions, Chi Essary brings a unique perspective to her mission to help build a culture that supports world class art in San Diego.

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 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 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 Claves 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.

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The current 2018/2019 SD Art Prize is on exhibit at the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library until July 6, 2019 featuring **Anne Mudge, Erin Dace Behling, Robert Matheny, Max Robert Daily**. Words of support from **Lynn Susholtz**, Art Produce, **Jacqueline Silverman**, director San Diego Art Institute, **Dave Hampton**, curator for Robert Matheny and **Jill Dawsey**, PhD, Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego are available in the [SD Art Prize Catalog 2018](#). Read about this exhibition: [SD Art Prize at the Athenaeum produced by San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) Picked **RAW Peeled by Patricia Frischer**