

# THE SAN DIEGO VISUAL ARTS NETWORK

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 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](#)



San Diego, CA – August 5, 2017 - [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) is excited to announce the emerging artists chosen for the SD Art Prize as well as the **Public Choice** award for the [2017 New Contemporaries](#). [Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) and [Alexander Kohnke](#) will be the emerging artists for the eleventh year of the [SD ART PRIZE](#). [Pablo Llana](#) was chosen by the visitors who attended the exhibition at [basileE + CMCuratorial](#) to vote for their favorite artists and he will receive a cash award of \$250.

Javier and Kohnke will each be choosing established artists in the next weeks to exhibit with at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) in the spring of 2018. Watch for that announcement along with news of the New Contemporaries at the [Art San Diego Contemporary Art Show](#) Sept 28 to Oct 1, 2016 with our community partners [Studio Door](#).

[Rizzhel Mae Javier](#) with her secret messages stitched on hidden pictures of people she no longer knows was wistfully strung from threads tangling as they are moved by the breeze. [Alexander Kohnke](#) presented a series of black and white portraits over laid 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. [Pablo Llana](#) used crushed discarded junk food wrappers to recreate the map of Mexico.

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

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part of the health of our city. SDVAN list over 2500 visual arts resource and gets one million hits a year.

**Anand Bora**, *Founder* [Determinant Studios](#) and his team are specialists in web and app development software including 3D web, print and design. The goal they achieve is seamless user interface design for their whole range of software and web products. Determinant Studios is the creator of the [SD View Art Now](#) voting app and is also responsible for the new rotating feature event software on the home page of [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#).

## [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*.

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."

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## [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."

## [Pablo Llana](#)



**Pablo Llana's** work revolves around the capitalism-consumerism and obesity-identity binomials, as viewed from the micro or, as well the personal. Using recycled wrappers of junk-food products as raw material, he points towards a political reflection, by tightly joining the critical and social senses. Llana earned an honorable mention at the XII Bienal Plástica de Baja California (1999 [Plastics Biennial]), 13va Bienal de Artes Visuales del Noroeste (2011 [Northwest Visual Arts Biennial]), 5ta Bienal Nacional Miradas (2012 National Glances Biennial), 14va Bienal de Artes Visuales del Noroeste (2013 Northwest Visual Arts Biennial) and first place at the 6ta Bienal Nacional Miradas (2014 National Glances Biennial), His art works are found in national and international collections including

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the permanent collection of the Museum Centro Cultural Tijuana CECUT. He was nominated by **Chris Martino**, director [basilelE + CMCuratorial](#) who said, "I chose Pablo for the SD Art Prize exhibition because his work embodies the 3 core attributes championed by CM Curatorial and basilelE in the contemporary art we represent and exhibit: 1) Conceptual rigor - his work is underpinned by a commitment to original thought and its visual expression. 2) Thematic resonance - Pablo's series are tightly structured bodies of work that invite discussion and debate. 3) Aesthetic bona fides - Pablo doesn't only think deeply, he creates truly unique and inviting work with "Wall Power"."

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

Read this press release online: [Press Javier Kohnke](#)