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Furniture Design/Woodworking

Our banner this month features members of the [San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association](#): [Alexander Safanov](#), [Pete Campbell](#), [Lorenzo Foncerrada](#), [Dusty Desterhouse](#), [Mike Jackofsky](#), [Steven M. White](#), [Brian Jackson](#), [David O. Wade](#) and [Jerry Gauthier](#)

We are seeing trends all over the world reflected in the San Diego Art Furniture Design world. We hope in this article to explore some of those directions and give you some background information in this area of art collecting.

"We've voyaged as pirates on the seas of art and culture for a long time. We've totally committed to the love and adventure of it. It's our fortune and our charge: concept to construction."

Seven young artists and designers present a collection of new works at [Spacecraft Studio](#) located on North Park Way Furniture, objects and architecture will be on display in a newly launched gallery and design studio located within San Diego's emerging art district of North Park. A collective, they have christened their new studio and gallery "spacecraft" in homage to the spirit of adventure and creative exploration. Also in North Park but right on Ray Street, [Planet Rooth](#) has long been a gallery/furniture design studio. They show fine art in the front space and have a furniture studio on the premises.

There are a number of other shops which sells art furniture in San Diego including [Mixture](#), [Adorn](#) and [Creative Inlay](#) all in Little Italy and The Park Gallery on Adams in University Heights. Keep your eyes open for shows at the [Mingei International Museum](#) such as a Sam Maloof exhibition. Sam is considered the Dean of American

Furniture Makers and the museum gave him a 90th Birthday Retrospective in 2006.

The new trend in London is for dealers to open their homes and show art in their own living rooms. Less intimidating for young collectors, this opens up possibilities to sell the furniture as well. We hope more gallery dealers jump on this idea....low overhead might mean a huge new showcase for our abundance of artists in San Diego.

The market is rocking for rocking chairs it seems. Check out this article published in the [London Telegraph](#) which explains how classic prototype designs are skyrocketing in the New York Market and how you can still pick up mass produced designs by leading artists/furniture designer for \$3-400. More and more designers are making limited edition and one off pieces. These are the ones which you will see go up in value in the future. They are considered sculpture even if they do have a function.

Paul Henry who calls himself a furniture maker was featured at [The Oceanside Museum of Art's San Diego Design: New Work from the Allied Craftsmen](#). He is also often showcased at [David Zapf Gallery](#). Beth Smith in her introduction to that show tell us, "The debate over whether the designs of master craftsmen should be considered works of art may never end. It has sometimes been a bitter feud that has no real winners. The history of Allied Craftsmen of San Diego mirrors this international discourse between opposing camps of artistic interpretation. Since its inception in the 1940s, members of Allied Craftsmen (then called the Allied Artists) have forged a proud history of concept-altering techniques and innovative designs. Allied Craftsmen artists have garnered national and international acclaim for designs in a variety of media incorporated into traditional and non-traditional forms. Through a golden era of exhibitions from 1952-1980, and subsequent detractors from local art museums, Allied Craftsmen continued to enjoy an enthusiastic following and remained preeminent in the area of outstanding craftsmanship and unparalleled design.

Wendy Maruyama comments that last year **SDSU** hosted the [Furniture Society conference](#) and that the SDSU program focus is twofold; "cross disciplinary work using the furniture form as a launching pad for sculptural work, or furniture that has a narrative." They have not lost their commitment to the process and technique of craft. The [Urishi Project](#) (Asian finishing technique with lacquer) is one example of the depth of study that has been undertaken by the SDSU faculty head. But Ms. Maruyama's own art now utilizes digital video, as well as large format digital prints. Some of her recent works were included in the above Oceanside of Art Allied Craftsmen show curated by Beth Smith in addition to being featured in the [Sculpture Show on the Bay](#). SDSU has turned out a [large roster of designers](#) which is indeed a valuable source of creativity in our city. Don't expect to see the traditional as some of these artists are dealing with "issues of transformation and the ephemeral with the nuances of a simple chair form and the use of mud, wax, bronze.... Others deal with feminist and societal expectations of women and their role as 'domestics' through the use of furniture (i.e. a cabinet made for baby supplies is a mannequin whose dress is made of disposable diapers)."

San Diego Fine Woodworkers Association (SDFWA) is a nonprofit organization started in 1982 to unite people interested in working with wood. They currently have 1600 member at all level of expertise. Their objective is to raise public awareness and to share techniques and ideas. Every year 300 SDFWA volunteers staff the [Designs in Wood](#) exhibition held at the San Diego County Fair. Now the exhibition has national sponsors, gives out awards, and contributes over \$20,000 in prize money to entries found in 21 classes. In addition The Wood Turners Association demonstrates wood turning techniques for the fair goers. The San Diego Wood Carvers demonstrate woodcarving in their booth. The San Diego Maritime Museum demonstrates model building. The Scroll Sawyers demonstrate various methods of scroll saw work. The 19th Century Cabinet Shop staffed by the SDFWA, make small oak chairs for preschoolers using only 19th century hand tools to

shape them. The Association makes fifty chairs each year and these last-a-life-time. Gifts are donated to various organizations in the community such as day care centers, schools, hospitals, health clinics, shelters, and other charitable organizations. To date, over 1,100 chairs have been donated.

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Baubles, Bangles and Beads

To examine the social relationships that exist between the jeweler and wearer, the wearer and consumer and the created object puts the world of decorative body adornment into the world of the fine visual arts. Always intended to be beautiful and valuable, jewelry can have other meanings as well. It often identifies its wearer's culture, beliefs, religion or station in life. So says the [Mingei Museum](#), which brings us **Symbols Of Identity — Jewelry of Five Continents** from April 23 - March 2007. Curated by Museum Founder and Director Emerita Martha Longenecker, the exhibition is composed of examples of adornment from cultures in North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe fashioned from silver, gold, enamel, gems, beads, wood, shells, ivory and bone. Although most of the objects in the exhibition come from Mingei International's permanent collection, several private collections are represented including the major collections of David and Marjorie Ransom and Daniel and Serga Nadler. **OF GOLD AND GRASS — Nomads Of Kazakhstan**, which continues through April 15, 2007, also has a enormous collection of gold adornments as their tradition is to adorn every space from their yurts to the tack on their horses.

Earlier this year, **Arline Fisch**, Artist/Jeweler gave a lecture at the Mingei but you are still in time to hear her at the Palladian **Society of the Athenaeum Lecture Series on the Decorative Arts** February 5, 2007 , at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) She is speaking on her historical references and influences. The past has been "simply an inspiration to attempt the fantastic," says Fisch. Her lecture will present pairs of images as a way to share some sources for her work. Fisch, Professor of Art Emerita, San Diego State University works primarily in precious metals, exhibiting nationally and internationally. Fisch, whose jewelry designs are included in the collection of the Vatican Museum in Rome, the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, D.C. was a leader in a groundbreaking jewelry design movement in the '40s that changed the perception of jewelry from mere ornament to an art form. Author of the book, *Textile Techniques in Metal*, published in 1975, 1996, and 2001, she frequently conducts intensive short-term workshops in the United States and abroad.

Although you have to pay for the above lecture the show **Uncommon Metal: A Look At Contemporary Jewelry And Metalwork** is free at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) November 11 – December 30 and will showcase fourteen artists working on the cutting edge of metal. This is the feature for our [upcoming home page banner](#). There are "one of the kind sculptures for the body" by Alexandra Hart and another local artist Mona Thrunfield works with organic shapes, movement and color. You will see concept of power and prestige and second use objects being incorporated. Thomas Mann, based in New Orleans, explores the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. His wearable art incorporates detritus found after the storm, and unexpected materials like glow-in-the-dark acrylic.

Taboo Studio is the speakeasy of jewelry boutiques. People come here to find what they can't get anywhere else, one-of-a-kind designs chosen by two women with flawless taste. Jane Groover and Joanna Rhoades. SDSU consistently graduates an amazing line-up of talent, many of whom (including Fisch) are among the 20 artists and designers showcased at Taboo. 619.692.0099

[Gemological Institute of America World Headquarters The Robert Mouawad Campus](#) in Carlsbad was

established in 1931 and is the world's largest and most respected nonprofit institute of gemological research and learning. GIA discovers, imparts and applies gemological knowledge to ensure the public trust in gems and jewelry. With 1,100 employees, the Institute's scientists, diamond graders, and educators are regarded, collectively, as the world's foremost authority in gemology. GIA's groundbreaking scientific research is covered by its quarterly journal, *Gems & Gemology*. This campus is well worth a visit and is open to the public for tours and occasional exhibitions. 5345 Armada Drive, Carlsbad, Ca 92008 tel: 800.421.7250 eduinfo@gia.edu

Covered by Ally Bling Bling on [ArtRocks!](#) and Liz Edwards at [LetsPlayDowntown](#), the jeweler [Houman](#) imbues his artwork with every emotion of a relationship, love, cheat, breakup, anger, alone, secret, flirt, lust and obsession. This is an interesting marketing device for a commercial jeweler and seems to add interest to his collection. The sort of jewelry you would expect to see on the cast of *Desperate Housewives*!

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Museum Trends by [Patricia Frischer](#)

The responsibility to preserve a collection is immense and more and more attention is being paid to the conservation departments in museums. No longer the exclusive tenants of the basement, new and well-equipped spaces are definitely the trend. The Getty is the leader in this field spending \$35 million a year not including its graduate program in conservation at Getty Villa. People are fascinated with the recovery process so this is an area to watch. With too few experts and an estimate of 190 million artifacts that need attention there is a demand for trained personnel.

A new challenge is the preservation of digital and electronic art works. How do we view these once the machines that they are displayed on are obsolete? This is area extending outside the arts with the Library of Congress getting a grant for \$100 million in 2000 to commission efforts to foresee these problems and help with solutions. Documenting how we take in art may be as important as preserving the art that is produced. Will artists be bar coding their works right in the studio or will someone come up with a radical new slant to solve this problem?

Blockbuster shows build membership and ticket sales, but can you look at art with hoards of heads in front of you. Most critics like small shows where you come away feeling you have really learned and felt something intensely. With the soaring cost of insurance and shipping, will traveling shows be phased out and locals given a chance to strut their stuff more? The fall show at the Museum of Art in San Diego [Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego](#) seems like a golden opportunity for us to evaluate this type of exhibition. How super would be if artists or even some of our better art critics were given a chance to curate some shows. Would artist mix artifact with art? They often see the world in a more holistic way than museum curators.

Maybe Arnold Lehman at the Brooklyn Museum of Art is a trendsetter in this area. He disbanded the old structure of curators in each of the different areas of their expertise. Instead there are now two divisions – one for temporary exhibitions and one for the permanent collections. This re-design will be interesting to watch, especially if it contributes to a shake out. Other Museums are keeping an eye on this we understand.

Where is the next generation of art patrons? We see the Athenaeum in La Jolla, The SDAI and the SDMA all wooing the young and trendy with martinis and DJs. The sad cafeteria lines are a thing of the past as new cafés are being planned at MOCA downtown when it opens in 2007 and at the expanded Oceanside Museum of Art. Revenue from the museum gift shops continues to rise in select shops like the one Beth Smith runs there, but a

San Diego based company Event Network is an outsourcer which specializes in store design, product purchase and placement and all sales for 22 museum in the country. They don't however, have a program where they commission artist to make limited editions for museums as a fundraiser. This helps the artist to establish a wider reputation with the stamp of the museum approval which is a side benefit to an exciting idea. Many would like to see the rental gallery return to the museum as a way to introduce to a new generation the possibility of local art in their own spaces.

One great new trend we are noticing is collaboration between museums and sales galleries and art association. When a major show is held, for example the Driven to Abstraction show at the Riverside Museum of Art, seven other abstract show were promoted at the same time in the new West Coast Art and Design [Lifescape](#) magazine. The Vision Annual Quilt show at the [Oceanside Museum of Art](#) right now has spawned:

Celebrations III, small art quilts by Pacific Quilt Artists at La Jolla Fiber Arts, 7644 Girard Avenue, La Jolla 92037 from Nov 10-Dec 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sun with the reception: Nov 10, 6.30-8.30 p.m. For more info: 858-454-6732, info@lajollafiberarts.com

Art Quilts at the Adobe 2006, exhibit by Pacific Quilt Artists at Rancho Buena Vista Adobe Gallery, 651 East Vista Way, Vista 92084 from Nov 8, -January 6, 2007 Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Meet the artists reception is on Dec 3, 1-3 p.m. For more info [Jill Le Croisette](#), 760-434-7491

Free Spirits, an exhibit by Free Spirits Art Quilt Group at Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane, Carlsbad 92009 from Nov 1-Dec 30, Mon-Thurs 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Fri-Sat 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m. For more info [Jill Le Croisette](#), 760-434-7491

Obviously there is money to be made at the online shop. The Metropolitan Museum in New York invests \$1 million each year into its website and made \$6.5 million last year from that website including the shop, memberships and fundraising efforts. Over a million visit the Getty in person, but 10.5 million people visit www.getty.edu each year. There is a lot of fun to be had when you visit one of these super duper websites. The [Tate](#) lets you design free e-cards and you can see live views of Paris from the [Pompidou Center](#).

By all means, introduce your children to art online, but nothing beats the hands on experience of making a work of art right in a museum. SD museums offer adult classes, education packets, docent tours, even outreach slide presentations and family festivals. When the new Children's Museum opens, SD will have one of the best in the country. We would love to see free admission for all school principals in all of our museums to encourage and educate this vital sector.

You can go with the OMA to the Palm Springs Film Festival in January or to Spain to see the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao with the SDMA in April of 2007. If you can't travel abroad, then perhaps there will be a museum satellite near you someday. The Mingei's beautiful facility in Balboa Park now has an equally stunning display space in Escondido. With two buildings already, will the next step for MOCA SD be Tijuana? We can also all look forward to the building of the Lux Art Institute in Cardiff by the Sea and the revival of the California Center for the Arts Escondido Museum seems to be underway with the new director Mary Catherine Ferguson starting a schedule of shows.

Lastly, are the museums missing out on a large revenue market? More than 9000 artists entered the Art of Photography exhibition held at the Lyceum. Minimum entry fee was \$25. Could a quarter of a million dollars come in handy to any of our local museums? Or are we on our way to the \$20 entry fee that many museums are now charging in New York.

There are many complicated controversies for museums that are ongoing and with no clear answers. Who should own the art of a culture? Should it always remain at the site of the original manufacturing? Should it be held for safety's sake in a world-class museum so it can be preserved and shared? And if you were a Tibetan what should happen to your art works when your culture is evicted from it home? If a museum does choose to return a work to the country of origin, what occurs when the item is seized by a third party looking for reparations from that country? Keeping an eye on museum trends is always stimulating.

[San Diego Museum of Art](#)

[San Diego Natural History Museum](#)

[San Diego Museum of Man](#)

[Oceanside Museum of Art](#)

[Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego](#)

[Museum of Photographic Arts](#)

[Mingei International Museum](#)

[Lux Art Institute](#)

[Intern'l Institute of Photographic Arts](#)

[Coronado Historical Association](#)

[Children's Museum San Diego](#)

[Bonita Museum](#)

[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#)

[California Center for the Arts, Escondido Museum](#)

We at San Diego Visual Arts Network believe that if the road is paved, the race is faster.

PATRICIA FRISCHER, the coordinator of the San Diego Visual Arts Network, writes these occasional resource articles.

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Celebrating SD Art Collectors

by **PATRICIA FRISCHER**, the coordinator of the San Diego Visual Arts Network

What makes a good collector? Glen Lowry from the Museum of Modern Art in New York believes they should be, "...passionate, knowledgeable, thoughtful, have a clear sense of what they want to do, a clear sense of the artists that interest them and be dedicated to the effort." There are seven basic types of art collectors and they are all being catered to this month in San Diego. All these buyers will enjoy the [ArtWalk on the Bay](#) and [Port of San Diego Sculpture Show](#), which we are featuring on our banner this month. Artist from left to right: [Therman Statom](#), [Wendy Maruyama](#), [Christopher Lee](#), [Marcos Ramirez/ERRE](#), [Igor Koutsenko](#), [Julia San Roman](#), [Michele Goodwin](#), and [Jan Stamm](#).

- **The Emotional Buyer** - one of our favorites, this buyer falls in love, woos and wins a piece of art. [Ray at Night](#) is just the place to discover that little gem by an emerging artist that you can't live without and it won't break the bank.
- **The Decorators Buyer** - finds a vacant place in their home and seeks to fill it. What better place to look than the [Watercolor Society's](#) 26th Annual International Exhibition held until the end of October and the last time this show will be held on Kettner as they are moving to the Liberty Station before the New Year. For a taste of South California, try the Regional Show at [SDAI: Museum of the Living Artist](#) in Balboa Park when the works paper the walls.
- **The Souvenir Buyer** - almost all great collectors starting by buying work on vacation. Where better than

the first ever Taste of [Del Mar Art Stroll](#). Take in the scenery of beautiful Del Mar with its breathtaking canyons and stretches of white sandy beaches, while you partake in fabulous dining and exquisite art as Del Mar hosts its annual art and dining event. Go a bit further and enjoy the 8th Annual [Julian Open Studios Tour](#) celebrates the creativity of 17 area artists in a tour of 12 studios within 7 miles of the historic mountain town of Julian, one hour east of San Diego.

- **The Buyer of an Artists Name** - this is an educated buyer who seeks out well known artists with track records. This fall, the [San Diego Museum of Art](#) will highlight some of the region's best private art collections in a special exhibition titled *Personal Views: Regarding Private Collections in San Diego*. This diverse display features 25 of the finest private collections to be found in the San Diego area and includes works by Rembrandt van Rijn, Mary Cassatt, Claude Monet, Willem de Kooning, Frida Kahlo, and Nan Goldin—giving museum visitors an inside look into what otherwise might never be seen in a public setting. Culminating a year-long celebration of SDMA's 80th Anniversary, the exhibition is on view from October 21, 2006, to January 7, 2007.
- **"Keep up with the Jones" Buyer** - the spirit of competition is alive and well with this type of buyer and the art world appreciates how they influence the market price. They will be duking it out between the [Art of Digital Show](#) show at the Lyceum and the [Multible Universes:Re:Seeing Art](#) at Poway Center for the Arts put on jointly by the Digital Art Guild and the Photo Arts Group.
- **The Corporate Buyer** - this buyer has achieved the financial success personally or in their business and can use art to show they have taste, discrimination and class. Watch for the new commission by the Southwestern Yacht Club who is commission work with the theme "[Our Bond with the Ocean](#)". Don't forget to see the [SD ART PRIZE](#) exhibition of work by Raul Guerrero & Yvonne Venegas at the [L Street Gallery](#) at the Omni Hotel. They are great Corporate sponsors of visual art as they showcase all 6 winners of this prize over the course of the next year.
- **The Investment Buyer** - They realize that an art work in their home or office is more enjoyable to gaze upon than a stock or bond and can yield the same dividends. We are not suggesting that investment is their motivation for acquiring art, just that their savvy buying has brought about a focus from our leading Museum. We are probably most interested in the works from the **Contemporary San Diego Collections**: Matt and Iris Strauss, Irwin and Joan Jacobs, Michael Krichman and Carmen Cuenca, Chris and Eloisa Haudenschild, Ron and Lucille Neeley, and Joyce Strauss and the Latin Collections of J. Todd Figi. which is being show at the [San Diego Museum of Art](#). But the following names are also San Diego Collectors you will want to see: **American Art**: Bill Foxley, Sheila Potiker, Bram and Sandy Dijkstra, Dan Stephen, Jeff Pressman; **European Art**: Bob Hoehn, Thornton Foundation, Ken Widder and Jackie Johnson, John and Toni Bloomberg, Frank and Demi Rogozienski; **Asian Collections**: Maurice Kawashima, Dr. V.S. Ramachandran, Professor Wai-lim Yip; **Ancient and Pre-Columbian Art**: Sherri Jamieson, The Kleinbub brothers, Christian and Eric; **African Art**: Richard and Susan Ulevitch; **Oceanic Art**: Ned and Mina Smith; **Haitian Art**: Larry Kent

New collectors of art can lack the confidence to make a purchase. If you fall into this category, seek out another collector, art dealer or consultant to mentor you. Ask to take home an art work to see if you can live with it. And once you become an art collector, make sure and pass on the thrill to others around you. Make sure and look at the [SmART Collector](#) for more information about collecting art

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Art Prize

This month the San Diego Visual Arts Network is starting an entire year of events to present the new [SD ART PRIZE](#). We hope to create as many Art Stars as we can to in the coming years. SDVAN is aiming to give you

additional features to this project as funding, demand and our own creativity in promoting the arts develops. The initial campaign is directed to the general population of San Diego to raise awareness; not only of the SDVAN, but much more importantly to make sure that the value of visual arts is well established in our community at large.

San Diego is pleased to enter the ranks of the top cities that support their cultural lives. We all recognize the benefits of the Arts in education, Arts in healing, Arts for tourism, Arts of expression of cultural diversity, and the huge benefits of Art in the design development of the very fabric of our city. But we are not culturally international until we recognize what we have become – a center for the visual arts in the 8 th largest metropolis in the nation.

Please read all about **SD ART PRIZE**. Support this project by attending the opening exhibition ***Fata Morgana*** : *Recent Works by Raul Guerrero and Yvonne Venegas* on Aug 16 from 6:30 to 9:30 at the L Street Gallery of the Omni Hotel. [Special Art Notes on Raul Guerrero and Yvonne Venegas edited by Ingrid Hoffmeister](#) with **Teddy Cruz** UCSD, **Stephanie Hanor** MOCA and **Julia Fry** SD Foundation. Read the **Robert Pincus** Union Tribune column [New Prize Will Recognize Local Artists](#) and hear [David Coddin on KPBS](#) talking to Tom Fudge about the SD Art Prize.

There are several international exhibitions that take place in San Diego every year which award cash prizes. The **SDAI: Museum of the Living Artist** Annual International Award has existed since 1955. A different internationally known juror is invited each year. This show is juried by slides and makes available international competition to regional artists. Since 2003 they have given an annual Palette Award during their Annual Southern California Regional Exhibition as well.

The **San Diego Watercolor Society** since its inception in 1964 has grown to become one of the largest organizations of its kind in the country. Through the annual International Show, it has helped to establish water media on paper as a strong and respected medium. This annual International Exhibition has developed from a small beginning to one truly international in scope.

Stephen Churchill is the curator of our two newest competitions. The **Art of Digital**, which is coming up in October at the Lyceum Theater. The **Art of Photography**, which took place at the same venue last April – June had more than 9000 entries. With curators like Arthur Ollman and Hugh Davies, we will be looking for future equally high caliber judges chosen from other city or even around the world.

The **Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego** stART Up award is made with money given at the \$1500 membership level. The stART Up Art Award honors regional artists of exceptional promise with an annual exhibition in the *Cerca Series* and a \$10,000 purchase award. The intention of the award is to encourage and support emerging and under-recognized artists. MCASD's curators in consultation with the director select recipients.

The La Jolla based **Alberta duPont Bonsal Foundation** has a noble purpose: to recognize emerging female artists and poets with monetary support. Annually since 2002, it acquires a significant work by the honored artist for its retail market value and donates it to the museum that nominates the artist.

There are many other organizations that give awards either cash or ribbons and we at SDVAN salute all those who honor artists in any way.

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Shattering Glass Myths

By [Marlene Ditore](#)

Myth #1: Glass is craft.

Myth #2: Glass is always shiny.

Myth #3. Glass is vessel.

Art glass in San Diego is no longer craft, but fine art. Awareness of the fine artists we have here has created quite a stir. People are anxious to learn the art of collecting glass. Glass art has found its way into contemporary galleries and museums across the country – really around the world.

The trends in contemporary glass art are hanging glass on a wall whether it be a single piece, a triptych, or a series. The glass may have different finishes such as matte, satin, shiny, beveled, etc. due to whether it is blown, cast or kiln-formed. Extensive cold-working (applying polishing and cutting equipment to the glass to re-define it, as well as hand working the glass) allows artists exploration with this medium that allows glass to be seen in a different way. While we will always have glass vessels in our society, whether functional or not, glass can take on any shape at the hands of the artist, glass tiles for our homes, glass garden statuary, and wall sculpture.

We are fortunate to have a well-established glass community that embraces teaching the public about this art form. The [Art Glass Association of Southern California](#) puts on an all-out show every year at Studio 21 in Spanish Village, bringing the public an excellent opportunity to get to know the artists, have questions answered about technique and embracing what goes into this medium. In speaking with the artists, passion for this art form is clear. [Charlotte Mitchell](#), a north county glass artist, informed us of the Galaxy of Glass shows which are put on by the [Art Center of Fallbrook](#) and is its 8 th year right now.

San Diego glass artists are interested in sharing knowledge to create a more knowledgeable (and lustful, if you will) environment for this contemporary art. A studio tour is always fun and many artists kindly have guests, just ask! Attention *all* art lovers out there, you can encounter impressionism, cubism, abstract expressionism, surrealism and realism – all in glass. Adding glass to an art collection is becoming a staple. You can become familiar with the studio glass movement artists as well as contemporary glass artists. And while studying who's who in glass, don't overlook some emerging and established glass artists we have right here in San Diego. There are more than 20 listed on SDVAN including [Lea de Wit](#), [Becky Guttin](#), [Dick Ditore](#), [Charlotte Mitchell](#), [Cherrie La Porte](#), and [Deanne Sabeck](#), to name a few. Plus a few not on our site yet like [Joan Irving](#), [Buzz Blodgett](#), and [Rob Morey](#).

A unique undertaking here in San Diego (which is a don't-miss) is the alliance between the [Ordover Gallery](#) and the [San Diego Natural History Museum](#). This partnership supporting artists and the arts is on view to the public. The Museum generously provides a beautiful Fourth Floor gallery space, while Ordover provides renowned international as well as local fine art photographers' works for sale. A generous portion of sale proceeds supports the Museum as well as the artist and Gallery. Now, add into this unique mix kiln-formed art glass. Local glass artist Dick Ditore blends his glassworks into each show giving form and texture to the space. In fact, the opening reception of the new show, Water Abstractions, will be Sunday, July 16 and run through September 5, 2006. In this show Ditore is celebrating the premiere of his new series, "Time Passages."

The [Mingei International Museum - North County](#) -TIMELESS GLASS — From Byzantine to Dale Chihuly in Escondido is a terrific glass exhibition on view which we reported on previously in our [A+ Notes](#). Another "don't-miss" is Glass Month in Escondido, every November, as decreed by the mayor. During that month, you can stroll the delightful Grand Avenue corridor and take in glass on display in about a dozen venues including the Mingei

Museum Satellite. For more information, contact the [Escondido Arts Partnership](#).

For those interested in honing their own glass skills, the [UCSD Crafts Center](#) has outstanding programs offered in lampworking, neon, and glass blowing and [Palomar College](#) in San Marcos offers glassblowing courses.

With our virtual reality now what it is, we can visit glass places without leaving America's Finest City. Here are places you may want to visit while out of town or at your computer screen.

There's a wonderful show going on right now at the [Los Angeles County Museum of Art](#) entitled "Glass: Material Matters". This is an excellent show to take in as it gives us some of the great masters of glass, such as Dale Chihuly, Klaus Moje and William Morris, Daniel Clayman and Toots Zynski. It is worth the drive through Los Angeles traffic. A larger secondary market is growing for glass, much like paintings. The [Wexler Gallery](#) and [Habatat Gallery](#) offer buying and selling services as well as auctions throughout the year. To learn more about collecting glass, please visit the [Art Alliance for Contemporary Glass](#); The [Corning Museum of Glass](#) in Corning, New York, where "you can explore, research, touch, work with and interact with glass; The [Toledo Museum of Art](#) in Toledo, Ohio, with the much-anticipated opening of the Glass Pavilion to house their extensive glass collection. This unique structure is art itself as the walls are formed glass; The [Museum of Glass](#) in Tacoma, Washington, "a fine arts museum dedicated to presenting glass in the context of contemporary art." and last but not least the [The Pilchuck Glass School](#) in Seattle, Washington which trains some of our top glass artists.

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Photography Focus San Diego

Edited by [Patricia Frischer](#) and [Julia Gill](#)

San Diego Visual Arts Network offers the ability to search for photographic resources in its [directory](#) by clicking on "Photographic Services," "Galleries," "Museums," "Art Associations," and "Schools". In its ["Find an Artist"](#) feature you can search by the medium, "Photography".

San Diego is endowed with a great number of photographic resources. We have an internationally-acclaimed photography museum, a world-renown private collection, an active branch of the National Association of Media Photographers, along with art associations, schools, and private-sales galleries. From talented individual photographers working in every aspect of the medium to businesses serving the photographer's needs, you will undoubtedly find everything your heart desires in San Diego. And let's not forget our beautiful natural light and extremely photogenic surroundings!

Since its founding in 1983, the [Museum of Photographic Arts](#) (MoPA) in Balboa Park has been devoted to collecting, conserving, and exhibiting the entire spectrum of photographic media. The Museum's endeavors consistently address cultural, historic, and social issues through its exhibitions and public programs. The Interim Director at MoPA is Gaidi Finnie, the Curator of Photography, Carol McCusker. The annual \$40,000 international Lou Stoumen Award makes this a world-class resource for photographers.

The recent opening at the [International Institute of Photographic Arts](#) at 1690 Frontage Road -- exit I-5 at Main Street in Chula Vista -- signifies a new era in San Diego. Victor Diaz amassed an enormous body of work that is available for viewing by the public during business hours with no admission charge. The Institute's space within the XLNC Radio station has been completely remodeled to best display a range of images from its inventory. The work is framed against black canvas walls which make the photographs 'pop' and allow for easy reading of the educational signage.

The Ordover Gallery at the San Diego Natural History Museum showcases the photography of world-renowned nature-based photographers. The nine-show series, titled Visions of the Natural World through the Lens of the Masters, will run from January 2005 through February 2007. A significant portion of proceeds from the show directly benefits the San Diego Natural History Museum in Balboa Park. The **Ordover Project** in Solana Beach is a cooperative of 14 photographers and visual arts galleries.

Joseph Bellows Gallery in La Jolla rotates solo shows and themed group exhibitions within its three exhibition spaces. The gallery supports an inventory of important vintage prints as well as contemporary photographs. The gallery offers search and consultation services for beginning and established collectors, as well as providing appraisal services. They actively seek the purchase of single photographs and entire collections.

The Art of Photography Show at the Lyceum has become an annual exhibition. The first show in 2006 drew over 9,000 entries from photographers all over the world. Juried by Arthur Ollman, former director of the Museum of Photographic Arts and now Director of the School of Art, Design, and Art History at San Diego State University, the show was a runaway success. Keep your eyes on SDSU to see for yourself how Arthur's energy and sophistication enrich the University.

The **San Diego County Fair International Art Exhibit** features a separate Exhibition of Photography showcasing traditional to cutting-edge images presented in color and black-and-white. This is one of San Diego's largest surveys in the photographic arts and is always well attended and of very good standard. Annually, from mid-June to the 4th of July.

The **Association of Media Photographers**(ASMP) has a San Diego branch. To be accepted as a member, photographers must be actively and professionally engaged in photography for publication with three or more years of experience. Applicants must also go through a proof of publication review by their peers at chapter level, or be accepted through a national committee. Additionally, ASMP members continue to receive business education throughout their careers. This group of photographers stays on top of technological developments and superior business practices. As such, any ASMP member can refer you to the appropriate colleague if what your request falls outside their area of expertise. Members have at their disposal an international network of high-quality photographic resources, a listing of San Diego's ASMP Photographers, and a helpful guide for working with photographers.

Women in Creative Photography (WiCP) is composed of professional photographers committed to finding creative solutions within their areas of expertise. WiCP meets monthly for presentations on developing the imagination, exploring the latest in artistic technology, and discovering innovative approaches to photographic issues. WiCP also offers photographic support to non-profit businesses in the county. For the consumer, this is the place to find that special photographer who will elevate your wedding pictures or family portraits into works of art; for the photographic professional, you are invited to attend a meeting and enjoy renewed artistic inspiration.

Photographic services are offered from 25 resources on SDVAN. For example, **Jared Nelson** specializes in the field of photographing his clients' artwork for production of slides and high-resolution digital files. Jared meets the needs of collectors and artists alike. Artists must have a high-quality portfolio of their work, physical and web-based, to document progress and assist in marketing. It's wise for collectors to have a record of their artwork for insurance and 'on-loan' purposes.

Finally, **Gene Nocon** at **In House Photo Lab** offers boutique services including fine art black-and-white digital printing. While in England, Gene was tutor to Prince Andrew as well as personal printer and photographic

advisor to Linda McCartney. Gene has an impressive resume in working with master photographers. Gene is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society (FRPS), and founded the FRPS Distinction Panel for Photographic Printers, serving as its first Chairman. Gene is the inventor of the NOCON™ Photographic Timer, the 'f/stop method' of printing and the 'lith' process. Like most of the photographic world, he has embraced digital printing and enjoys the freedom of expression available through that medium.

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Competitions and Juried Exhibitions

Artist enter competitions during their entire careers. As a student, juried exhibitions are resume builders. Exhibition organizer often charge a fee, but the best give some of that fee as award prizes. Most of the art associations in SD which has a gallery space are financed by their regular ongoing juried shows. And major prizes for outstanding artists are now offered in all major cities. San Diego is lucky to have an International Photography Award (\$40,000 Lou Stoumen Award) given by the Museum of Photographic Arts. The SDVAN [Ongoing Events](#) feature has been updated to reflect many new listings for juried local shows with the help of [Nicole Byrne](#). Our latest edition to SmART Collector in the Collector Insights for Artist section is [National and International Competition Listing Websites](#) edited by [Lisa Roche](#). This list of websites will help our local artist find shows outside of the San Diego region. And more importantly, it will help collectors find a wide range of art so that they can do their own judging and hopefully purchasing of local art.

Reoccurring Major Annual Juried Exhibitions:

- [The Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League's Annual Children's Art Show](#) - Coal Gallery - February
- [Art Of Photography Show](#) - April - May
- [San Diego County Fair](#) - June - July
- [The Carlsbad-Oceanside Art League's Annual Open Juried Show](#) - August , Coal Gallery
- [Natural History Museum](#) with [Museum Artists Foundation](#) – September
- [SD Watercolor Society International Exhibition](#) - October
- [San Diego Art Institute](#) – Museum of the Living Artist - International Exhibition and Southern California Regional Juried Award – October
- [Oceanside Museum of Art](#) Regional Biennial – November
- [Art Glass Association of Southern California](#), Gallery 21 Spanish Village, Balboa Park -November
- [William D. Cannon Art Gallery](#), Carlsbad - Juried Biennial – December of odd years

Ongoing Juried Exhibitions:

- [Escondido Art Partnership](#) at the Escondido Municipal Gallery
- [La Jolla Art Association](#) at the Village Gallery
- [San Diego Watercolor Society](#) at the Showcase Gallery
- [San Diego Visual Artist Guild](#) at the SDVAG Fine Art Gallery
- [San Diego Art Institute](#) – Museum of the Living Artist
- [San Diego Hospice and Palliative Care](#) - For more information or to register, please call 619-278-6451 or email volunteer@sdhospice.org
- [.Port of San Diego](#) - ongoing needs for art in public spaces commissions
- [City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture](#) - ongoing needs for art in public spaces commissions

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WITHOUT LIMITS: A Latin American Slant- [Expression of Mexico Gallery](#)by **[Lawrence A. Herzog](#)****[Traducción al español: Aníbal Yáñez](#)**

In a café in Havana, Cuba, a waiter was once asked, "which club do you recommend for the best "son" (salsa music) in the city?" His eyes lit up, he shook his head, and said, "You cannot just show up and listen to salsa, my friend! First, you must feel joy. After that, well, perhaps you must fall in love to really hear our Cuban salsa."

So, it is with art in Latin America. It is like falling in love. It just finds you when you least expect it.

These digital art works take us down the path.

It starts with memory. The past is sacred. It is everywhere... in architecture, dance, theater, music, life. There are dark swirling clouds, a dome church tower, red tile roofs... There is a woman in a tight red mini-dress leaning against a wall. Her eyes are closed. What does she dream of? Red roses in the market at dawn? White painterly brush strokes that become a collage of dancers flowing across a stage?

Is this woman in the mysterious place that Mexican philosopher Octavio Paz has called the "labyrinth of solitude," a withdrawal into the past, a journey of self discovery?

The artists in this show found that place: in the silence of ancient pyramids under the moon. In a baroque, white mission tower, solid as a giant saguaro cactus. In an adobe hacienda receding into the Baja midday heat, to a blue sky carved of the same earthen texture.

Some digital work freezes zen-like moments on silent city streets— blue and orange stone walls, fiery red-orange brooms alongside colonial doorways, antique market shelves lined with aging blue and green bottles.

The Latin American city is a montage... old or new, structure or chaos. Cars and border steel fences, Mondrian-like urban grids of Inca gold or rich multi-colored palettes.

The dead are not forgotten. They appear in nightmares, like grotesque masks from El Dia de la Muerte. They morph into ghosts that float over red candlelight in a church.

Young or old, feminine images abound. In bright dresses. With flowers in their hair. In an elegant, backless gown that unfolds like a great fan, as a woman gazes into the sun.

Ah the sun, that giant yellow orb, the circle that reminds us of indigenous power. The Inca, the Maya, the Aztec all worshipped its essence as the source of life.

From the ancient to the modern, and then back. In Latin America, time is like the circle; it has no beginning and no end. It is... without limits.

[Lawrence A. Herzog](#), Professor of Urban Design, Graduate Program in City Planning, School of Public Administration & Urban Studies, San Diego State University

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Digital Art Booms in San Diego by [Theresa de Mol](#)



Picture yourself playing hooky from work to spend a leisurely morning at your favorite coffeehouse, seated at your favorite table in back. Your steaming hot latte has just arrived. You stare down at the cup, placed at the edge of a mosaic-tiled table. The imagined aroma draws you in. You inhale deeply then suddenly exclaim, "Hey! What the heck?!!" Closer inspection reveals that inside this big plume of steam is a beautiful woman dressed in a long white nightgown. As you move in closer still to inspect this image on canvas you may wonder, "Is it oil? Acrylic?" Actually, this particular print, playfully titled "Way Too Much Coffee" is a fine example of the digital art produced by local and nationally renowned Photoshop "Guru" Jim Respress, Ph.D. Oh, wow, you think. That's sooo cool! But what exactly is digital art?

Digital art is the catchall term used to describe any artwork which is produced with the aid of a computer. Please note that I have refrained from describing it as "computer generated." The computer is merely a tool, just as the paint brush is a tool, but please realize that behind every digital work of art there was a real life "artist" in every sense of the word responsible for its creation. Beyond that, the label is used in reference to both two dimensional works as well as animations. For the purpose of this article, I am restricting the discussion to 2D works only, those created with the 3 most popular software programs : Photoshop, Painter, and a mathematical program called Ultra Fractal.

But first a bit of history. Digital art is a relatively new art form that was waiting in the wings for certain technology to be invented before it could make its debut. While computers don't create the art, one can't create digital art without one. The first personal computers hit the market in the mid 1970's. Digital cameras are another helpful though not essential tool, which most Photoshop artists possess. While high priced digital cameras, such as the Nikon F-3 with its whopping 1.3 mega pixel sensor were available to professional photojournalists by the late 1980s, more affordable models weren't offered to the public until the early 90s, right about the time Photoshop burst on the scene.

Photoshop, the first major image processing software program offered for sale to the general public was developed by the Knoll brothers, Thomas and John, from Michigan back in 1987 when Thomas was a grad student working on his Ph.D. thesis on image processing at the University of Michigan and his brother John was working in the trenches at ILM --the special effects division of Lucas Films founded for Starwars. Together, over the course of three years they developed and successfully began marketing their program with Adobe and in February of 1990 the first shipment of Photoshop 1.0 was released.

Fast forward to the present. Photoshop has come a long way, baby. It can be used for everything from enhancing traditional photos to collaging images, to creating art entirely from scratch. The advantage digital

painting has over traditional is not only the avoidance of the toxic fumes and mess, but the number of shades of colors available on your digital palette. When I began using Photoshop 7.0 a couple years ago, I had 264 shades of every color to play with. The latest 16 bit version has increased that number to 64,000!!!

Those interested in learning more about Photoshop are welcome to join the [SD Photoshop Users Group](#). SDPUG holds its monthly meetings at the California Art Institute in Mission Valley, generally on the first Saturday of the month, from 12 noon to 3 pm.

SDPUG was preceeded by Digital Imagination, a now defunct North County group headed by digital latte maker extraordinaire [Jim Respass](#) Ph. D. Jim began his artistic career as a traditional photographer who enjoyed creating montages from negatives, distortions, solarizations etc. He first discovered Photoshop back in 1996, while taking photo darkroom courses at San Diego City College. "It seemed as if I had been waiting 30 years for that software," Jim recently enthused. Since then he has gone on to win 2 Photoshop Guru awards. These top honors were bestowed on him by the National Association of Photoshop Professionals.

Painter is another major digital software program that has gained immense popularity with the digital arts community and crossover artists in recent years. Local digital diva [Cher Pendarvis](#) has played a key role in the development of this amazing program. Cher is also the author of all seven editions of the Painter Wow! how-to series. When asked to compare and contrast Photoshop and Painter she replied:

"Photoshop is an essential tool for illustrators and artists who want to do retouching, compositing, color correction, painting and more. For the artist who loves to draw and paint, Painter is an essential tool because of the realism of its natural media brushes, textures, its unique special effects and the tactile feel of its paint media. I think of my stylus and brushes in Painter as a new kind of pencil, a new kind of charcoal, a new oil paint, and more."

Another local digital heavyweight artist is [Michael Sussna](#), Ph.D. who for the past 21 years has been using fractal software to create his colorful abstract images. Fractals are mathematical phenomena.," Sussna explained. " They are the result of mathematical functions and formulas being computed for each point in a rectangular region of a number plane. The numbers are then turned into colors, also based on a wide variety of possible functions." While the concepts behind this program may seem complex, the program itself is "user-friendly" and "intuitive" Michael assures me.

For those who already have some experience working with with these programs and to want to show their work, joining the [Digital Art Guild](#) can be most beneficial. According to its chief spokesman, Joe Nalven, Ph.D., DAG is a spin-off of SDPUG. "We wanted a platform that emphasized getting our art up on the walls of galleries and museums rather than limiting ourselves to new tips and tricks. And we have succeeded way beyond those early dreams." Anyone interested in joining the group can contact [Joe Nalven](#) .

The City of San Diego has proclaimed the entire month of May "[Digital Art Month](#)" and thus, from the Iron Artist Competition, to ArtWalk, to the Sony/SDAI International Digital Exhibition, to Steven Churchill's Art of Photography Show at the Lyceum Theater, to the DAG show at the Expressions of Mexico Gallery, there will be many opportunities to see and experience some truly outstanding examples of digital art this month. So be sure to check the SDVAN calendar for dates and times. 'Nuf said. Now back to that latte...

Written by: Theresa de Mol, owner of Digital Fantasies by M. Theresa de Mol
email: theresademol@yahoo.com 760-753-4521

Digital Art Guild, San Diego Visual Arts Network, San Diego Art Institute

I am pleased to extend my greetings as the people of San Diego gather to celebrate innovation and excellence in digital arts. Art enhances our sense of individual and community identity. From abstract to concrete, art offers a context for the emotions and sensations of humanity. Digital technology has blossomed in the art and computer graphics world, creating new ways to re-imagine and reinvent the arts experience. I salute San Diego's digital arts professionals and visual artists for highlighting advancements in the field through forums that enrich members of the community. Californians are grateful for your commitment to supporting education and the digital arts profession as a process of discovery for all citizens.

Sincerely, **Arnold Schwarsenegger**

Robert Pincus writes in the Union Tribune about the Digital Art and SDAI in San Diego "[The Vision Thing](#)"

Use the [Digital Printmaking Technologies definitions](#) to learn more about digital art techniques in the [SmART Collector](#) feature of SDVAN.

Robert Pincus writes in the Union Tribune about the Digital Art and SDAI in San Diego "[The Vision Thing](#)"

- **[The Art of Photography Show](#)** . April 20 – June 4. Lyceum Theatre, Horton Plaza, San Diego, CA 92101. This show will include both traditional and digital photography. Juried by Arthur Ollman . For more info: Contact: [Steven Churchill](#) or 858-793-0900
- **[ArtWalk](#)**. April 29 – 30 noon to 6pm. Outdoor digital art booths in Little Italy. No entrance fee. DAG Organizer: [Tiger Lee](#). 858- 455-8404. [Photo Arts Group](#) Organizer Steve Gould
- **[SONY / SDAI's Museum of the Living Artist's International Digital Fine Art Exhibition](#)** (in conjunction with the Digital Art Guild). April 29 – June 12 Reception April 29 from 6 to 9 pm (\$45 - \$75) in Balboa Park, 1439 El Prado. Contact: [Lori Lipsman](#) or 619-236-0011
- **[Iron Artist Competition](#)** – May 4th at the San Diego County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Road, Joe Rindone Technology Center. Organizers: [Joe Nalven](#) or 858-679-1242 and [Stephen Burns](#) or 760-436-9921. Also, free workshops sponsored by the San Diego Photoshop Users Group on May 4 and 5 . Sign up at [www.sdphotoshopusers.com](#)
- **Digital Art Week Seminar** presented by [The San Diego Photoshop User's Group](#) & the San Diego County Office Of Education - May 4th & 5th 10am to 8 pm at 6401 Linda Vista Rd SD, 92111. The official online signup section will be operational by Friday April 7th, 2006. This is the two 8 hour day intensive workshops in 3D animation, digital artistry and digital photography. The workshop will take place in the PC and Macintosh Lab classrooms. The classes will include presentation workshops by a variety of industry professionals who will teach their techniques and creative approaches. For more information: [Stephen Burns](#) 760-436-9921
- **[La Jolla Digital 2006](#)** May 9 – 28 at the La Jolla Art Association's *Village Gallery*. Reception will be held on Thursday, May 11 th from 6 to 10 pm 7932 Ivanhoe Avenue, La Jolla. 858-459-1196. Juried by Brenda Regier and Gene Nocon. Contact: [Scott Graham](#) or 858-837-0115. Lecture "The Language of Photography" by Brenda Regier, Wednesday May 10th 7-9 pm
- **[Without Limits: Latin American Slant](#)** May 13 – June 9 at Expressions of Mexico featuring a DAG group show. Reception on Saturday, May 13 th from 5 to 8 p.m 1122 César Chávez Parkway, Barrio Logan, San Diego, CA. Contact: Carmen Velazquez or Merle at [expressionsofmexico@yahoo.com](#) or (619) 232-1793 or

[George Zucconi](#) or [John Valois](#) of DAG

- **[Fathom: The Body as Universe](#)** May 12 to 21 featuring the digital art work of [Junko Chodos](#), put on by [Malashock Dance](#). This is the ballet's California premiere at the Stephen and Mary Birch North Park Theatre. For more info call Jacqueline Anne Siegel (858).395-7733
- **[San Diego Art Institute](#)** Three evening dialogues about digital art at the Museum of the Living Artist that broaden the understanding of the SONY / SDAI / Digital Art Guild International Digital Art Exhibition. 1439 El Prado, Balboa Park. Contact: [Lori Lipsman](#) or 619-236-0011

1) **"Through the Eyes of the Digital Printmaker."** Wednesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m. [Jim Respess](#),

- **"The Practice and Vision of Digital Artists."** Wednesday, May 10, 6:30 p.m. [Michael Wright](#) and [Cher Pendarvis](#) and [Joe Nalven](#)
- **"The Gathering"** – Saturday, May 7 th, 5:30 pm **Featured artist presentation:** [Joe Nalven](#) will discuss his art and crafting digital images. All artists are welcome to come, discuss their own art and receive friendly critiques.

[The Digital Art Guild](#) and the [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) are sponsoring these very special art events.

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About ArtWalk Walk About

ArtWalk is San Diego's largest and best-known art festival featuring some of the finest painting, sculpture, glasswork, photography, music, drama and entertainment from San Diego and Tijuana-based artists. The event was founded 22 years ago by the Installation Gallery . In the beginning years, Art Walk took over warehouses, empty office space and artist studios. David Zapf, Scott White and others at the 2400 Kettner Building were very involved. They wanted to bring together all facets of the arts in San Diego and to give individuals the opportunity to own original pieces of art. Interface Event Marketing took over around 10 years ago and brought in the title sponsorship by Sony enabling the event to become better known. The event remained in warehouses and studios until 2002, when the ArtWalk was transformed as a festival in downtown San Diego's hip and historic Little Italy neighborhood. . Since 2002 the event has been held in the streets, and has grown to more than 400 participating artists and more than 20 performing groups.

[Imagination Entertainment](#) is the current organizer of ArtWalk. (Did you know they also produce an exciting performance called [Il Circo](#).) They have partnered with organizations including the Little Italy Association, the City of San Diego, CCDC, The Art Miles Mural Project, and the San Diego Visual Arts Network, to create an ArtWalk event that attracts 70,000 – 80,000 attendees each year and contributes more than \$800,000 annually into the local San Diego arts economy. [Sandi Cottrell](#) tells us that the management's vision is to continue to raise the profile of the event, to attract the highest caliber of artists to be involved, and to continue to introduce art to San Diego's children. For more information, please visit www.artwalkinfo.com.

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Art and Healing

Recently, while waiting for my appointment in a lobby of a local hospital, I noticed a man sitting with his eyes closed, listening to the music being played by a volunteer. Once the music stopped he looked at me and said, "I would have gone crazy if it was not for the music to calm me down." He had been waiting to hear about his

wife's surgery. This brief exchange confirmed my belief in and rekindled my passion for integrating healing art into San Diego's health care.

As evidenced in scores of clinical studies and within a concept paper presented at a symposium hosted by the NEA and the Society for the Arts in the Healthcare ("SAH"), art has the ability to comfort, console, restore and heal. As a result, art is being put to use in hospitals, clinics, hospices, and other health centers. The corridors and lobbies of hospitals display uplifting paintings and banners. Musicians travel from room to room with their guitars, violins and flutes offering their gift of music. Nurses and patients alike are encouraged to write in their journals and to share their poems with one another. Artists bring drawing pads and watercolor paints to children in pediatric units. For people in a stressful situation whether they are patients, families, or health care professionals, the arts provide an outlet and aids in healing.

The arts are becoming more established as a part of the nation's healthcare system. Approximately 2,000 U.S. hospitals (slightly more than 50%) have arts programming, according to the survey organized by SAH and Americans for the Arts in cooperation with the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations. While paintings, prints and other works displayed on the walls make up the majority of the artwork in the hospitals, nearly half of the hospitals surveyed present performances in lobbies and other public spaces. In addition, 36% have bedside activities and 55% have arts activities geared for the healthcare staff. Art therapist use music, poetry, movement, and visual arts and are trained to use these arts to support measurable therapeutic results. Artists offer their talents with patients, families, and staff with the knowledge that their gift will have lasting and healing effect.

Through "The Healing Art of Journal Writing," Laura Lhotsky encourages participants to "think creatively and express emotions about all the changes that are going on because of the illness." For caregivers who are also learning about the illness and experiencing the difficult emotions that come with watching a loved one in pain, these types of workshops are especially helpful. "It is a very emotional time for both the patient and the caregiver," explains Lhotsky, "Journal writing gives them both an outlet for the confusing emotions they may be suppressing, and allows them to accept their extreme situation and help achieve the balance they need."* Scripps Green Cancer Center, the UCSD Cancer Center, the American Cancer Society and others have presented these programs.

San Diego artist Nina Couturiaux's mixed media artwork entitled Illumination was selected by The Susan G. Komen Foundation San Diego Affiliate to be posted in mammogram centers to help raise awareness, and to give hope and courage to women fighting breast cancer. Nina continues to raise funds for that Foundation and other organizations such as the Caring Community Living with Cancer, by selling prints, original art and other merchandise using the artwork.

It is important to note that healing art is not limited to hospitals and clinical settings. Immediately after the 2003 firestorms in San Diego, Tama Dumlao, a San Diego artist and arts therapist, headed up an arts recovery workshop mainly for neighboring children who had witnessed the loss of their homes and personal belongings. Through art therapy, these children were able to express and address their emotions in a healthy and safe way.

With changing demographics, troubling wartime events, natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina, the arts and healthcare are at a turning point. It is clear that a closer alliance between those in the arts and healthcare professionals will be of a great benefit to providers as well as the people they serve. Recognizing the gap and the need to bridge the gap, organizations such as [Synergy Arts Foundation](#) (a non-profit organization which supports and nurtures artists) and Studio Vivace (established to integrate healing art into the healthcare arena)

have been playing key roles in strengthening this alliance in the San Diego healthcare through their continued efforts.

Written by Naimeh Tanha, Executive Director [Studio Vivace](#)

*Excerpted from the October 2003 issue of San Diego Magazine

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Youth Art

SDVAN celebrates Youth Art Month with the West Coast's "Children's Version of The Manhattan Memorial Mural", launched this year with the help of more than 450 students and teachers from [Del Mar Hill Schools of Arts and Sciences](#). Del Mar Hills Academy and Trinity Elementary School located in New York City will each create a 250-foot segment of the mural and connect them together as part of the [Art Miles Mural Project's](#) Peace, Unity and Healing Mural on the 5 th anniversary of the tragic September 11 disaster.

Students of both schools will develop the design of the mural with assistance provided by their teachers. They will integrate research for their design in classroom social studies, geography, science and art classes over the next few months. Sketching will begin in early spring, and painting completed by end of school year. Plans are also being made for students and teachers to participate in scheduled videoconference and web casting sessions between both schools.

A miniature version of the integrated design will then be painted on the Del Mar Hill's school wall as a permanent exhibition. The adult version of the Manhattan Memorial Mural, which is the inspiration for the project, was designed and launched by Mr. Cady Macasa, a popular San Diego artist and muralist who passed away in 2005.

At Del Mar Hills Academy fine arts is infused into core teaching concepts. The seven "hallmarks" of "expression", "discovery", "innovation", "aesthetics", "self-reflection", "interconnection", and "discovery." The integrated program is instrumental in fostering learning connections between the "right and left" brain. This makes the learning and thought processes more meaningful. The Children's Version of the Manhattan Mural project fits the Academy philosophy perfectly. Every grade level will participate in both the actual conceptual development of the mural and the painting on the wall.

The Art Miles Mural Project, founded by San Diegan, Joanne Tawfilis and her husband, is both a local and global project based in San Diego. The Art Miles is one of the organizations that will be moving to the new Liberty Station Promenade Arts and Culture Center. To date, over 41,000 painters from more than 100 countries have painted more than 1, 400 murals on canvas, which are part of a twelve-mile mural project and in support of the UNESCO Decade for the Culture of Peace and Non Violence Among Children of the World.

You can see the "Fairy Tale" mile created by [ArtWalk Artists](#) this year on April 29-30. The ArtWalk portion of the mural will eventually join other panels created internationally to help create the longest mural in the world. For more information on the Art Miles Mural Project , or if you would like to design and paint a panel of this mural, please phone the [ArtWalk office](#) at 619.615.1090. For further information about the Del Mar Academy project please contact: [Ann Bertchold](#) at: (858) 792-0018

Visit [ArtsBusXpress](#) at ArtWalk

Stop by the ArtsBusXpress booth at KidsWalk during ArtWalk 2006 and taste a sample of ArtsBusXpresso. This

unique blend was created for ArtsBusXpress by Ryan Brothers Coffee to benefit San Diego children: 50% of every purchase sends them on school fieldtrips to San Diego arts and culture events.

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