

U-T
Night + Day
Weekly Guide

APRIL 26 - MAY 2, 2012

POP MUSIC: Stagecoach festival
DINING OUT: Spot prawns

Art talk

What inspires five standout artists at this year's ArtWalk

The artist's process

Five standouts from the Mission Federal ArtWalk talk about what goes into creating their pieces

NINA GARIN • U-T

The Mission Federal ArtWalk is all about celebrating San Diego's diverse art scene, from Shepard Fairey murals to the oil paintings found in area malls.

Because the free outdoor festival features more than 350 artists

showing everything from photography and ceramics to jewelry design and watercolor, finding something you like can be overwhelming.

We've selected five standout artists whose work you can see at this year's 28th annual festival, which also features music, dance, art workshops for kids, food booths and more. They tell us what goes into creating their work as well as what inspires them.

Andy Anh Ha



The Los Angeles-based fine artist creates modernistic paintings on hand-made wood panel boxes. His pieces can be seen hanging

in department stores and in the background of TV shows, including "True Blood."

Mission Federal ArtWalk

When: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Throughout Little Italy

Tickets: Free

Phone: (619) 615-1090

Online: missionfederalartwalk.org

Maps: Free maps will be distributed at the ArtWalk, and it can also be found online.

Q. Please describe your art in one sentence.

A. Simple but bold, modern yet traditional.

Q. What do you listen to when you're creating something?

A. I don't paint if I don't have music involved. Rhythm gets my emotions going, and it shows itself throughout my artwork.

Q. If you could own any piece of art, what would it be?

A. In my mind, it's considered art ... the first and original Rubik's Cube. And if I'm ever fortunate enough, Basquiat, any of his works.

Q. What's the most inspiring thing in your work space?

A. A blank canvas. Completing a new piece of work is the most satisfying feeling I know.

Anh Ha's work can be found at Booth 217.



Andy Anh Ha's "Line."

Dorit Schwartz



A sculptor who works with stone, Las Vegas-based Schwartz creates unique pieces that are

inspired by nature. Her latest sculptures are exclusively made in alabaster and wood.

Q. What is the most powerful experience you had in a museum?

A. Seeing the glass pyramid in the central courtyard of the Louvre museum was a very powerful experience for me. Seeing this modern piece of artwork in such a classical, historic building was so inspiring and defines how any type of artwork can be cohesive in sorts.

Q. If you could own any piece of art what would it be?

A. "Fireflower II," a sculpture by Pamela Soldwedel.

Q. How do you handle a rejection or setback?

A. I believe rejection or criticisms make you a better person by improving on any flaws.

Q. The best city for creating is ...

A. Sedona, Ariz.: The city with great power and inspiration.

Schwartz's sculptures will be at Booth 121.



**Dorit Schwartz's
"In Unison"**



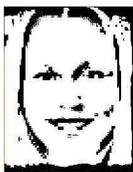
**“Blue Bayou,”
a photograph
by Chris
Honeysett**

Chris Honeysett



The Bay Area photographer has a unique eye when it comes to nature. His images are bold, clean and surprising.

He’s also a featured artist at this year’s event.



Amy Wise

This local photographer makes the ocean look like an abstract painting thanks to her use of peaceful colors and artfully blurred images.

Q. What do you find beautiful that most people do not?

A. I find cemeteries to be some of the most beautiful places in the world and an area where I always feel at peace. There is a gentleness to them that is comforting.

Q. What is the most powerful experience you had in a museum?

A. I will never forget visiting the Ramses II exhibit in Provo, Utah, as a child. At the time, I had the average attention span of any 8-year-old, and five minutes of boredom could easily feel like an eternity. I was enraptured the entire visit and was totally fascinated that anything that old could still exist. The great part is that I still get that same feeling when I am close to historical pieces.

Q. What do you listen to when you’re creating something?



**A watercolor painting
by Susanne Slater**

Q. Please describe your art in one sentence.
A. Pensive, introspective and quietly provocative.
Q. What do you find beautiful that most people do not?
A. I love the fog and how it conceals and reveals simultaneously.
Q. What do you listen to when you're creating something?

A. Whatever Mother Nature is providing at that moment, as I am outdoors.
Q. The best city for creating is ...
A. ... located in the state of Introspection.
Honeysett's work will be located at Booth 511.

Susanne Slater



Slater creates watercolor pieces that capture San Diego's neighborhoods and streets. She's

a member of Balboa Park's Spanish Village Art Center and is a featured artist at this year's ArtWalk.



"Palette" by Amy Wise

A. I actually prefer silence when I'm creating images. It helps to hear my own thoughts and translate the emotions I experience into my digital canvas.
Q. How do you handle a rejection or setback?
A. I've learned to take rejection in stride and not let it get me down. At the end of the day, what matters most is that I create artwork that I love. Without that passion, my work would be empty.
Wise's photos can be seen at Booth 309.

Q. Please describe your art in one sentence.
A. My watercolors are loose, with vibrant fresh colors.
Q. What do you find beautiful that most people do not?
A. Pugs.
Q. What is the most powerful experience you've had in a museum?
A. Seeing original Van Goghs in the Musée d'Orsay in Paris.
Q. What do you listen to when you're creating something?
A. I have my own mix of mostly female artists, including Dido, Indigo Girls, KT Tunstall and Patty Griffin.
See Slater's pieces at Booth 513.