

County of Santa Cruz

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95062

(831) 454-7901 FAX: (831) 454-7940 TDD: (831) 454-7978

JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR

ARTS COMMISSION – AGENDA

Monday, May 5, 2025
4:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting

Simpkins Family Swim Center Community Room
979 17TH Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA MODIFICATIONS OR APPROVAL

- III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:** Any person may address the Commission during its Oral Communication period. Speakers must not exceed two (2) minutes in length, or the time limit established by the Chair, and individuals may speak only once during Oral Communications. All Oral Communication must be directed to an item listed on today's Consent Agenda, yet to be heard on Regular Agenda, or a topic not on the agenda that is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. Commission members will not take actions or respond immediately to any Oral communication presented regarding topics not on the agenda but may choose to follow up later, either individually or on a subsequent Commission Agenda. Oral communications will normally be received by the Commission for a period not to exceed thirty (30) minutes. If, at the end of this period, additional persons wish to address the Commission, the Oral Communication period may be continued to the last item on the agenda.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approve meeting minutes from March 3, 2025 Pages 2-3

V. STAFF REPORTS

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Information/Discussion Items

1. Museum of Art & History annual report
2. Arts Council annual report
3. Public Art & Design Guidelines
4. Santa Cruz Co. Chamber of Commerce – Arts Award Category – subcommittee report

B. Action Items

1. Consider Selection Panel recommendation of public artist for the Juvenile Hall public art project Pages 4-10
2. Select recipient(s) for the 2025 Spotlight Award Pages 11-23
3. Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Arts Commission for a term starting July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026
4. July meeting date - move from 7th to 21st

VII. AGENDA / MEETING FOR: July 21, 2025 – 4:30 PM

VIII. ADJOURNMENT



County of Santa Cruz

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JEFF GAFFNEY
DIRECTOR OF PARKS

ARTS COMMISSION MINUTES

March 3, 2025, 4:30 p.m. – 979 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

- I. Called to order at 4:32 p.m. Present: Niven, Phillips, Stabile, Miranda, Leclerc, Singer, Rogers, Kroslowitz, McGowen
Absent / Excused: none Vacant seats: 1
Staff: Sarah Shea, Kathy DeWild

II. Approved Agenda - Motion/Second: Stabile/Phillips

AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

III. Oral Communications – None

VI. Approved Consent Agenda - Motion/Second: Miranda/McGowen

AYES: 8
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 1

V. Staff reports

Parks is working on a communication and marketing plan for the Department. Work is in process on the Pace Trails, which will connect with the Quail Hollow Ranch trail system. Several new exercise programs for youth and adults will start up this spring. Field renovations are in process at Brommer County Park. The call to artists for the Juvenile Hall public art project went out, with proposals due on Feb 21. The Floral Park public art proposal goes before the Board of Supervisors for their consideration tomorrow. If approved, Justin Francavilla can begin work on the project. A call for nominations for the 2025 Spotlight Award has gone out, with nomination letters due by March 3.

VI. Regular Agenda

A. Information and Discussion Items

1. Commissioner Leclerc gave a brief report from the Legacy Award subcommittee
2. % for Arts in Private Development

B. Action Items

1. Voted to approve, with inclusion of discussed edits, the draft Live Oak Exhibits policies and procedures, and recommend the Board of Supervisors include them in the County Policy and Procedures manual.

Motion/Second: Rogers/Miranda

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

2. Voted to approve Arts Advisory Panel's recommendation and recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the donation of the Gail Rich photos into the County Art Collection

Motion/Second: Rogers/Phillips

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

3. Form Legacy Award Ad Hoc Subcommittee and appoint Commissioners Stabile, Niven, and Miranda to serve on the subcommittee

Motion/Second: Miranda/Phillips

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

4. Appoint Commissioners to serve on Ripple Effect Arts Festival committees: McGowen, Festival Events Team: Niven, Public Art Team

Motion/Second: Phillips/Miranda

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

VII. Next meeting date: May 5, 2025 – 4:30-6:00 PM. Agenda items may include:

- Cultural Tourism
- Ripple Effect Festival – appoint commissioners to serve on various committees
- % for Arts in Private Development
- Legacy Award – criteria
- July meeting moves from the 7th to the 21st

VIII. Adjournment – 6:06 PM

Motion/Second: Stabile/Miranda

AYES: 9
NOES: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

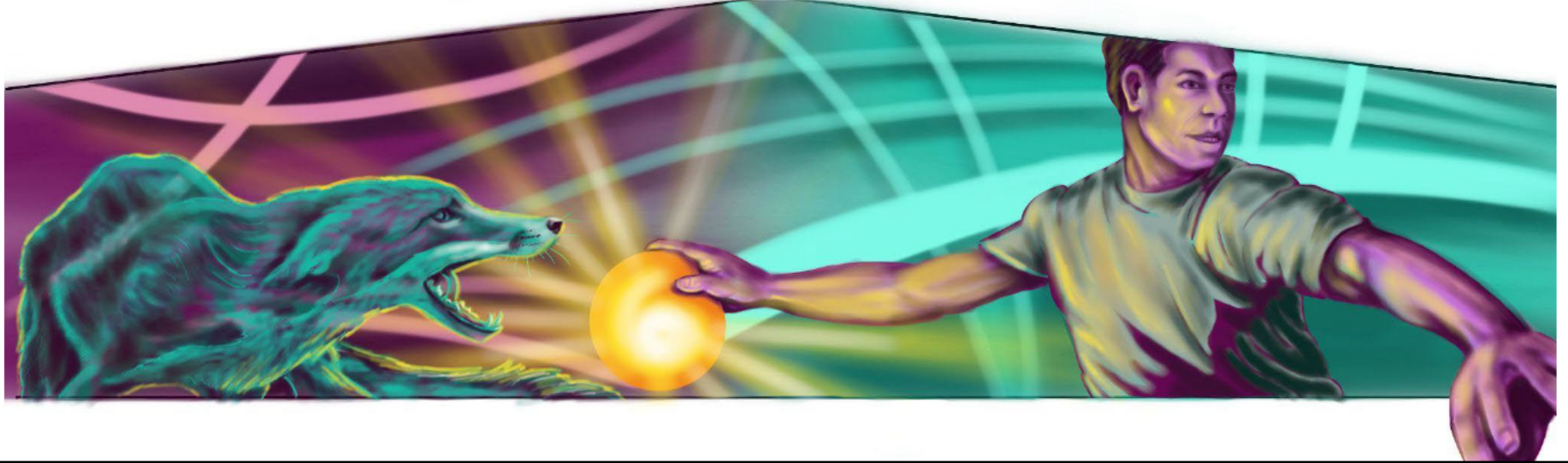
SANTA CRUZ JUVENILE HALL PUBLIC ART PROPOSAL



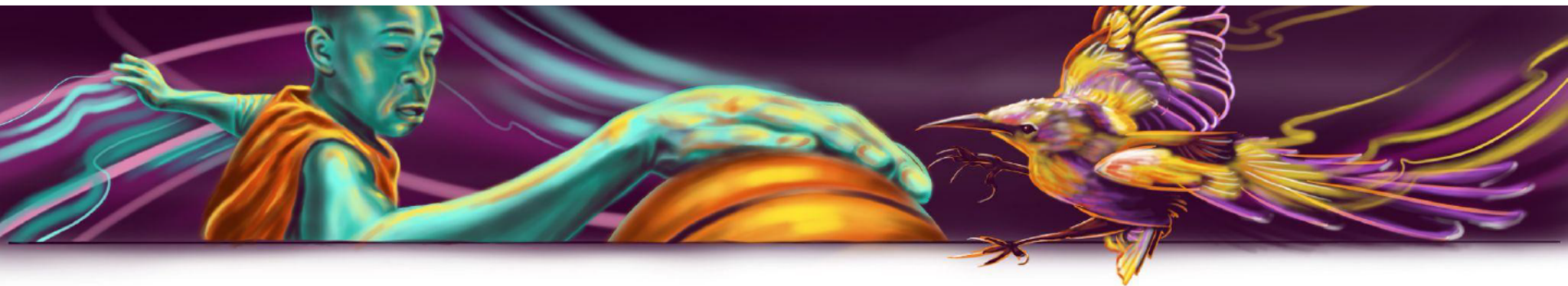
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MURALS LLC

GYMNASIUM MURAL



GYMNASIUM MURAL



WORKSHOP Garden Mural DESIGN CONCEPT



This design celebrates the presence of the Ohlone Tiger Beetle and the Mount Hermon June Beetle. In the center, a blue vervain plant blossoms its purple flowers, a color that attracts pollinators. The background is set by sprawling ferns over a starry night sky. The design can be made to fit a space as wide as 50 feet or shortened to 30 feet. Height is approximately 8 ft and can also be modified to fit the appropriate space.

WORKSHOP MURAL INSTALLATION CONCEPT

Garden installation

8 ft x 8 ft panels

Can be installed in cube format, as a long 32 ft x 8 ft mural, or as 4 separate panels dispersed through the garden

Spray paint and acrylic

Test panels for practice before final execution

Use of urban street art materials for community empowerment



Through applied learning and hands on instruction, our students develop the necessary toolset to install a mural from start to finish. In mural installation students have the opportunity to practice direct communication, creative problem solving, collaboration, and artistic understanding.

Our workshops prepare our students for murals by building confidence in skill set and communication. Team bonding takes the workshop to the next level in order to prepare them for professional installation. Our students will learn proper safety and mural etiquette while working on the wall.



MURAL WORKSHOP

LOGISTICS

Access to water

Access to electric

Workshop intro: Classroom, projector access

Surface preparation: coordinating with construction to have walls pressure washed and/or primed, or have clearance for us to do so

Maintenance: Application of two part anti-graffiti MuralShield system

Which protects against UV, elements, and vandalism.

-muralshield wipes, soap & water in case of vandalism

Equipment: Scissor lifts or scaffolding in the case that lifts are not viable for the location. Coordination with construction on the assembly of panels/cube.

Artist Bio

Alisan C. Andrews, SWA, SAG



Alisan Andrews has been painting since childhood and showed promise early while taking classes at the Santa Barbara Art Museum and with her artist grandmother. She produced two award-winning murals and sold most of her work while still in high school in Santa Barbara.

Alisan majored in Fine Arts and worked mostly in oils. A popular artist with Bay Area musicians, she exhibited her paintings and was featured in “Night on the Town” in the San Francisco Chronicle. Over thirty of her paintings have been sold in the Bay Area and the US.

Changing her focus to watercolor, Alisan studied at the University of Santa Cruz with Jane Hofstetter, Ferenc Besze, Stuart Givot, Karen Frey, Sonja Hamilton, Dale Laitner, and others. In June 2011, she was juried into the Triton Museum’s Midsummer Art Festival. She has also taken numerous workshops and classes to develop her craft.

Alisan taught at the College of San Mateo Community Education from 2011 to 2015 and now offers private lessons in groups and to individuals. She also teaches an intergenerational (14—to 83-year-old) watercolor class at the Highlands Park Senior and Community Center in Ben Lomond, CA.

Alisan is a Signature Member of the Society of Western Artists and Sequoia Art Group. She also belongs to the Silicon Valley Watercolor Society, Pacific Art League, and California Watercolor Association. She is a member of the Santa Cruz Mountains Art Center member and recently won an award for her “Blue Moon” painting in the “Water: Ebb and Flow” exhibit.

Her work has been shown at the Society of Western Artists Art Center, Caldwell Gallery, and Triton Museum, as well as in numerous shows, homes, and businesses from California to the New York Islands. She has received awards from the Society of Western Artists, the Sequoia Art Group, the San Mateo County Fair, the Silicon Valley Watercolor Society, and others.

Paintings:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| • Old Souls 20”x26” Watercolor | • Gone Ashore 20”x26” Watercolor |
| • Life at Sea 13”x 37” Acrylic | • Young Cheetah 20”x 28” Watercolor |
| • Jade Dragon 23”x29” Watercolor | • Dawn in the Redwoods 23”x29” oil |
| • Blue Moon 25”x31” Watercolor | • Shade by the River 21”x27” Watercolor |
| • Under the Pier 18”x22” Acrylic | • Morning Awakening 27”x25” Watercolor |

All of these paintings were completed in the last few of years.

Kara Saiki

Our own piece of Broadway

From sketches, to stage.

When I found out my school's theater department was putting on a production of the *Lion King Jr.* my director and I's first thought was, what are we going to do for the lion head masks? With support from my amazing director, Mrs. Neall, I was honored with full creative liberty to create these masks as I saw fit. For nearly 2 months straight I worked on designing and crafting 4 individual lion heads, that both looked appealing, and were functional for stage use. With only cardboard, hot glue, and paper mache I had to create these decorative masks that could withstand dancing and singing without moving around on the actors head. This was no easy task, for custom measurements had to be taken of each person's head, and since our lion king production was double cast each head needed to be adjustable to compensate for the actors' different sized heads. Eventually I was able to come up with a way to add adjustable velcro straps to each mask hidden under a flap which would later be covered by the mane of feathers. This is just one example of the multitude of issues I had to troubleshoot in the creation of these masks. Another considerable issue was to do with the exterior design, for while our *Lion King Jr.* took heavy inspiration from the official Lion King that runs on Broadway, I needed to decide what route my masks would take. In my research I commonly saw other theater companies trying to directly recreate the Lion King masks from Broadway. While I definitely took inspiration from the Broadway masks I also knew I wanted my lions to be their own work, one with similarities to the Broadway but that also had elements from the original 1994 movie, along with my own creative interpretation. With this I took the color schemes from the original movie, added them to the shapes and dynamics of the Broadway, and added my own creative symbolism to the markings on their faces and the shape and texture of their mane. Specifically I used the marking on the characters face to represent their rankings and personalities. For example the circular red marking on their forehead represents the lion's place in the "circle" of life, and the stripes to resemble sun rays. Additionally if you look closely you'd notice Scar, the lead villain lion is missing these marks, and instead has asymmetrical stripes to represent his disruptive and unbalanced nature. Its details like these that make me so proud of these works, for initially I had no idea whether I even had the skillset to execute a project of this complexity. After nearly 90 hours of work and many late nights I'm proud to call this project my own, and this not only pushed myself beyond where I thought my limits lie, but was an overall wonderful learning experience that gave me practice in sculpting, but also allowed me to practice in costume making. Overall this project was an amazing opportunity and I will look back on these masks fondly, and from this project I will continue to make many different kinds of art, in or out of my comfort zone. I'd like to reiterate my thanks to my director who made this project possible and I hope my art was able to bring a little bit of Broadway right to our stage.

Hello my name is Priscilla Martinez. I am is a 39-year-old Latina artist and illustrator born and raised in Watsonville, California.

I first took an interest in art at a very young age. I began painting murals as a senior at Watsonville High for Watsonville High. After graduation, continued my passion of the arts by continuing art classes at Cabrillo College. I was also working full time.Â However, initially, most of my time is consumed working full time in order to establish a solid foundation for herself and her family. I have developed as a professional artist and produce a recognized body of work in Watsonville.

I have created a vast amount of curated art for the community.I have created the official Watsonville Strawberry Festival Poster for seven consecutive years. I have also created numerous posters and murals for local merchants, service organizations, schools and public agencies. In 2018 my design was selected for Monterey County's first Official Government Flag. I completed a murals at Watsonville High, Alianza, Watsonville Census at Ramsay Park. I also created a mural at Santa Cruz Naturals in Pajaro. I also had murals on display at the Watsonville City Center as part for the City - Pajaro Valley Arts Movable Murals Project. Additionally I also had art displayed at Pajaro Valley Art Gallery. Most recently I also created art for two utility boxes on Main Street in Watsonville and mural design work for Ramsey park nature center in Watsonville.

My work is inspired by my culture, my community music, & the beauty of the land around me. Pajaro Valley is an area of cultural richness of the Watsonville community. I often uses bright bold colors and illustrations in the style of Mexican traditions to integrate in my art pieces. My goal is to create pieces that are attractive, captivating and tell a story. I am primarily self-taught as a painter and a muralist.I also acquired skills in computer graphic design and body art tattoo design.I hope to inspire other artist of all ages that theres a lot you can do with your artistic skills if you put your heart in soul in it.

PRISCILLA MARTINEZ

pmarz.finearts@hotmail.com

Summary

Productive artist with 25 years' track record of providing clients with outstanding service. Talented in painting. Graphic design, murals And tattoo artist.

Skills

- Drawing outlines
- Color mixing
- Knowledge of art history
- Visual texturing
- Adobe InDesign
- Strong design sense
- Quick learner
- Electronic logo design
- Template creation
- Creative and artistic
- Project proposals
- Knowledge of book design
- Photoshop and Lightroom
- Design strategy
- Self-motivated professional
- Creative design

Experience

Poster Designer And Artist **03/2022 to Current**
Watsonville Strawberry Festival **Watsonville, CA**

Created the Watsonville Strawberry festival poster for years 2013,2014,2015,2016,2016,2017,2018,2019 and 2022 also the strawberry festival logo designer

Poster Designer **01/2020 to Current**
Watsonville International Women's Club **Watsonville, CA**

Design poster for this years event and future events

Meat Seafood Clerk **04/2003 to Current**
Nob Hill Foods Grocery **Watsonville, CA**

- Provided outstanding seafood clerk service to new and long-standing customers by attending closely to concerns and developing solutions
- Increased sales by 17% over a two-year period
- Checked inventory for required supplies, including fish and supplies and made lists for employees , documenting needed cleaning products
- Responsible for creating designs for prominent {project}

Sign Restoration **04/2016 to 06/2017**
Barn Fresh Produce **Castroville, CA**

Restoring damaged signs and creating new product signs for the company

School Muralist **04/2016 to 06/2016**
Alizanza Charter School **Watsonville, CA**

- Organized and worked on several public mural paintings while maintaining regular business flow
- Prepared proposal volumes for customer delivery

Poster Designer **01/2015 to 02/2015**
Capitola Begonia Festival **Capitola, CA**

63rd 2015 poster designer

Education and Training

High School Diploma **06/2003**
Watsonville High School **Watsonville, CA**

Art
Cabrillo College **Aptos, CA**

Accomplishments

- Art donations to Pajaro Valley Community Health Trust and poster Designer of 32nd Evening of wine and Roses
- Gilroy Garlic festival peoples choice 2014 and 2015, 3rd place winner and associates award winner 2019
- Santa Cruz county Best of Show in art division 2017,2018
- Pajaro Valley Arts Gallery Day of the Dead exhibit 2017,2018,also moveable murals project 2019
- Watsonville Rotary poster designer for 2018 and 2019 Maine lobster feast and auction
- Designer of Monterey County First Official Government Flag
- census 2020 mural for Santa Cruz county Cruz
- santa Cruz park and friends art projects (art hike challenge pinto lake 2021, art park frames for santa Cruz county parks 2021.

Spotlight Award Artist Application: Sally Fuess

Currently I am working on mostly small oil paintings of marine and still life with a focus on rich color and expressive brushwork. I have always enjoyed painting animals and recently developed a penchant for pears and flowers. The last three years I have been specifically inspired by Van Gogh's color, brushwork and oriental influence. I have also been inspired by Wayne Thiebaud's simple but elegant still life's and focus on the everyday as a vehicle for his beautiful paintings. My recent work has been focused blending strong mark making with solid draftsmanship to create my own vision of abstract realism. My goal is to expand these skills into larger and figurative works.

Selected Shows:

"Ebb & Flow", Santa Cruz Mountain Art Center, Ben Lomond, CA 2025

"tiny & HUGE" Show, Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2015-2024

"The Line", Santa Cruz Mountain Art Center, Ben Lomond, CA 2024

"Delicious" 2023, Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA, 2023

"Confluence", R. Blitzer Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA 2022

***"This is Now", A Tri-Gallery Exhibition of the Visual Arts Network Artists,
Radius Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA 2022***

Delicious 2021, Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2021

***"450 Pieces", A Tri-Gallery Exhibition of the Visual Arts Network Artists
R.Blitzer Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA 2021***

"Alphabet Soup", Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2019

Delicious 2018, Studio Gallery, San Francisco, CA 2018

Awards:

Best of Show, "Ebb & Flow", Santa Cruz Mountain Art Center, Ben Lomond, CA 2025

Best of Show, Painting, Art at the Classic 2015, Draft Horse Classic, Grass Valley, CA September 2015

***Best of Show, 42nd National Exhibition, "WAOWin the Texas Hill Country" 2012, RS Hanna Gallery,
Fredericksburg, Texas***

Website:

www.sfuess.com

I think my printmaking is different than what one might picture in their head or what is normally out in the world. Last April I joined my first art studio where I continue to show my art along with 4 other women. There I created a flower series, my intention with that body of work was to be colorful and funky. Sharing an art studio at the Tannery really catapulted me into being a working artist. There is always an art event or community event we're tied to as River Studio Shop & Gallery. Within the year I've been a studio artist I've grown to showcase my surroundings a lot better; whether it's through my food, travels or feelings. You can see my life through tomatoes, cultural flowers, and powerful statements.

My current body of art is bold and colorful. Some of my favorite pieces are tied together with different mediums such as watercolor or gelli printing. Now I'm willing to be more experimental throughout my work process and create art I truly enjoy. I feel that the artwork I'm creating right now speaks to individuals who I would most closely relate to. As a nonbinary poc artist I find myself isolated sometimes whether it's by others or myself unintentionally. Through my art I'm able to speak and have my voice heard.

In the future I would love to host workshops or classes to teach printmaking to individuals. I've hosted a DIY printing event through an Arts Council of Santa Cruz County grant and worked with Radius Gallery twice to host me in the space. At these events I bring everything necessary to print but everything is premade so I bring my own stamps. Having done these events I always leave amazed at people's creativity with what I've brought for them to use. I know other printmakers who host workshops and admire the creativity of students.

This year I want to focus on putting my work out more. I've been in exhibitions and projects but I would like to be a name people remember when they read the artist names at a show. I plan on applying to more exhibitions this year. The artist community in Santa Cruz is so important and thriving a lot of my friendships come from the art community. Print sales are something I want to try this year. The East Bay Print Sale is a big gig to have in the printing community. It's something people go back to every year. Applying to Open Studios this year would be an honor. It will be my first year applying and I feel I have a large enough body of art to submit. Santa Cruz has so many wonderful artists I would love to be a standout amongst them.

List of images

1. Mushroom Ladies, Linoleum Print, 2021
2. Cempazutichil, Linoleum Print, 2022
3. Queer Lives Matter, Linoleum Print, 2023
4. Love Her Deeply, Linoleum Print, 2023
5. Luchador, Linoleum Print, 2023
6. Gaudi's Chair, Linoleum Print, 2023
7. Tomatoes, Linoleum Print, 2024
8. Breakfast for Two, Linoleum Print, 2024

Crystal Contreras

PRINTMAKER

Santa Cruz, CA

EXHIBITIONS

Being Seen - Santa Cruz Art League
(May 2023)

Project 24/seven - Arts Council Santa Cruz County Building & Radius Annex
(June 2023)

Printmakers at the Library - Scotts Valley Library
(January 2024)

More than Cars - Pajaro Valley Arts
(March 2024)

Treehouse Dispensary and Art Gallery
(April 2024)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- River Studio Shop & Gallery April 1, 2023-present (member)
- Designed merchandise for a Treehouse annual event (April 2023)
- Vendor at 10+ local markets throughout Santa Cruz County (Pajaro Valley Pride, Arte del Corazon, Mi Gente, Events Santa Cruz, etc.)

GRANTS

- "Home for the Arts" - 2 printmaking station events (July 1, 2022 & February 3, 2023)
- Develop grant (2023 ACSOC)

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

- 2 printmaking station events (July 2022 & February 2023)
- Painted a mural at Circle Church before closure (January 2023)
- Queer Community Gathering (April 2023)

-
- Project 24/seven (co-curator) - community gallery focused on bridging the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County and residents/artists at the Tannery Lofts (June 2023)
 - Community Ofrenda at River Studio (October 2023)
 - Clothing Swap (November 2023)
 - The Many Faces of the River - hosted and curated by River Studio members (April 2024)

Rebeca Escobedo
Artist Spotlight Nomination

The biggest part of my artistic journey is embracing experimentation. My body of work consists of exploring with whatever materials I can get my hands on. It began with acrylics a few years ago and slowly I began to integrate embroidery onto the canvases. It wasn't something I had seen a lot of, so I began to incorporate it more and more - it eventually became a part of my signature style. That then led me to purchase a sewing and embroidery machine two years ago. That purchase opened my art to a world of possibilities that I would have never imagined.

I first approached sewing from a "crafter" standpoint, making sure to learn all the ins and outs to familiarize myself with the technique. It took over a year, but once I felt comfortable I began to infuse sewing and fabric into my art as well. Since then, I would describe my current body of work as playful and full of color - using it to tell the story of my upbringing.

As a Mexican immigrant, deeply connected to my heritage, I'm currently trying to tie my culture into my visual art pieces. Especially when using a medium like sewing that's entrenched in tradition. Sewing and fabric, to me, is the only art form that links me to both my mother and grandmother, so it holds a special place in my heart. Looking ahead, I aspire to experiment with more intricate fabric designs and seek opportunities to showcase my work in exhibitions and through grants. My big goal this year is to apply for Open Studios, where I aim to reach a wider audience by displaying my fabric art pieces.

In the long term, my vision extends beyond my individual practice. I dream of establishing a nonprofit sanctuary for artists, a space that fosters creativity, elevates youth, and thrives on community engagement. I am currently working in the arts at two nonprofits as the Marketing Coordinator for the Santa Cruz Art League and the Administration and Program Coordinator at Senderos. Working in the arts has given my life's outlook a whole new meaning. I deeply value the transformative power that art holds and its ability to enrich lives and communities, especially when it's presented early on in life.

Rebeca Escobedo

MULTIMEDIA & FABRIC ARTIST

PROJECTS

CREATED TO CREATE – *Created an eco-friendly public art piece on River Street Fence at the Tannery Arts Center*

JUNE 2022

PUBLIC ART TOUR – *Artist talk at the Tannery Arts Center*

MARCH 2023

CO-CURATOR OF PROJECT 24/7 – *An artist-led initiative highlighting tannery artists*

JUNE 2023 – OCTOBER 2023

RIVER STUDIO 116: SHOP & GALLERY – *Part of an artist collective at the Tannery Arts Center*

APRIL 2023 – PRESENT

CURATED A DIA DE LOS MUERTOS COMMUNITY OFTENDA

OCTOBER 2023

CURATED 5+ CLOTHING SWAPS

2023 – PRESENT

VENDED IN 10+ ART MARKETS – *MiGente, Spring & Winter Art Markets, Fruition Brewing, Arte Del Corazon, & More!*

2022 – PRESENT

COLOR ME RAD – *Assistant Artist teaching 10+ youth with nonprofit LOCAL COLOR*

APRIL 2024

EXHIBITIONS

LOVE & ACCEPTANCE: AN LGBTQ YOUTH ART SHOW - GILROY, CA

MARCH 2022

SANTA CRUZ ART LEAGUE: MEMBER'S EXHIBITION - SANTA CRUZ, CA

FEBRUARY 2023

PROJECT 24/7 - SANTA CRUZ, CA

JUNE 2023

PAJARO VALLERY ARTS: MORE THAN CARS - WATSONVILLE, CA

MARCH 2024

TREEHOUSE DISPENSARY AND GALLERY: ARTIST RESIDENCY - SANTA CRUZ, CA

APRIL - JUNE 2024

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SANTA CRUZ ARTS COMMISSIONER - 2024

GRANTS

CREATED TO CREATE - PUBLIC ART GRANT 2022

DEVELOP GRANT - ACSCC 2023

EDUCATION

California State University, Sacramento — Graduated 2020

B.A. Psychology, Minor in Sociology

- Spotlight Award Application - Katie Simpson - 2025 -

My recent artwork is a group of mixed media paintings which explore the natural environment; and combine acrylic, collage, drawing, and relief printmaking. I developed this style about 5 years ago, by combining different elements of previous bodies of work into a new one. The natural world inspires me, as it thrives while being unexpected and challenging... and it's gorgeous.

By focusing on the lush and diligent natural world I invite viewers to examine their own relationships with nature. Overlapping images, color, memories and different art materials, I strive to create a strata of ideas and invoke remembrances of real or imagined pasts. Memories underlay all we do and see, under the surface of soil (beneath intertwined plants, plastic, roots, bones) seeds wait to sprout. These seeds may take centuries to grow into big trees, or grow into flowers that bloom for a day.

Being a Spotlight Award Artist would foster an enriching environment for me to further explore these ideas, and would encourage growth in my art practice. I would be honored to be considered for this amazing opportunity. I look forward to continuing to pursue questions of time with nature, home, and memory with my work. I'm excited about exploring these ideas in conversation, focus, research and through the act of painting itself.

I can't tease art apart from anything else, it is intertwined with all aspects of my life and work. Lately I've been reflecting on my artistic journey, as I approach the future. Like a meadow, life always has so many overlaps - for all of us. I have recently been married, started work in arts administration, and started more regular care for my parents as they travel through dementia and cancer. I feel shifts in my artwork as well, and am excited to work with these changes to create new and exciting elements of paintings.

I am grateful to teach a variety of art processes to a variety of age groups, and to work with artists daily. I show my paintings as often as I can, and my momentum has been building over the last couple of years. I pursue art in all parts of my life, and love how all opportunities and possibilities feed one another, and art supports everything.

Selected Solo Exhibitions

- 2024 *Thicket Hearted Spring*, Pacific Grove Art Center, Pacific Grove, CA
El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach, CA (forthcoming)
- 2023 *Breeze Turning in the Leaves*, Big Basin Vineyards Tasting Room, Santa Cruz, CA
Simpkins Swim Center, Santa Cruz, CA
The Seeds we See, Corralitos Brewing, Watsonville, CA
- 2022 *Fields of Color and Line*, Corralitos Brewing, Watsonville, CA
Tangled Plans, El Dorado Nature Center, Long Beach, CA (catalog)
Grow Through, Hotel Paradox, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2018 *Overgrowth (give yourself more flowers)*, Backstory, Portland, OR
- 2017 *Memories*, Backstory, Portland, OR
- 2013 *Recreation*, Compton-Goethals Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010 *Emergence*, Launch Pad Gallery, Portland, OR
Grown, HVB, Portland, OR
- 2009 *Our Own Jungle*, Tyson Gallery, Portland, OR
Could Be Woods, Blackfish Gallery, Fishbowl #2, Portland, OR
- 2008 *Future Views*, 30 Rooms, Milepost 5, Portland, OR
This Horizon, Janovec Gallery, Portland, OR
Aquatic Mollusk Communication Systems, The CORE, Portland, OR
- 2006 *A Show of Hands*, Washington State University, Vancouver, WA
Handy, Flying Rabbit Gallery, Portland, OR

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 *40 Years of Inspired Expression*, Pajaro Valley Arts Gallery, Watsonville, CA
- 2023 *12x12*, Cabrillo Gallery, Aptos, CA
Mixed Media Paintings, Santa Cruz Government Center, Santa Cruz, CA
New Beginnings, Pajaro Valley Arts Gallery, Watsonville, CA
Tribute to Colin Chase, Colin Chase Gallery, New York, NY (catalog)
- 2022 Open Studios preview shows at Art League and Robert Blitzer Galleries, Santa Cruz, CA
This is Now, Curated by the Sea, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2021 *Let the Record Show*, The Slough, Watsonville, CA
VAN Show, Radius Gallery, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2020 *Community Art Show*, Little Giant Collective, Santa Cruz, CA
- 2018 *The Floating Library*, Lake Phalen, St. Paul, MN
Inner & Outer Landscapes, Cannon Beach Gallery, Cannon Beach, OR
Cascade Aids Project Auction, Portland, OR
The Love Show, The Ford Gallery, Portland, OR
Winter Show, Backstory, Portland, OR
- 2016 *12x12*, Cabrillo Gallery, Aptos, CA
Razzle Dazzle, AIR Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Recycled, Repurposed, Recovered, A.D. Gallery, UNCP, Pembroke, NC
- 2015 *Constrained*, CityLife Gallery, Jersey City, NJ
Redefining Feminism, CCNY Cohen Library Archive Gallery, New York, NY
Swap Meet, Academic, Queens, NY
Working Artists, Academic, Queens, NY
- 2014 *World Building*, Academic, Queens, NY
CCNY Women Make Art, CCNY Cohen Library Archive Gallery, New York, NY
- 2013 *Joining Forces*, NAC Plaza, City College of New York, New York, NY (catalog)
City's Six, One Art Space, New York, NY (Curated by Stephanie Crawford)
1, 2, 3, 4, Gallery 200, 111 Front Street, Brooklyn, NY (Curated by Risa Shoup)
- 2012 *In Between*, Compton-Goethals Gallery, New York, NY
H x W x D, Compton-Goethals Gallery, New York, NY
Hindsight is 20/20, Launch Pad Gallery, Portland, OR
- 2011 *Summer*, Crow Arts Manor, Portland, OR
- 2010 *Facing Fear*, Launch Pad Gallery, Portland, OR
Switches, Switchyard Studios, Portland, OR
- 2009 *Portland Open Studios Group Show*, Portland City Hall, Portland, OR
The Earth and Sky, (with Kelly Neidig), Gallery 920, Portland, OR
Sustainability, Onda Gallery, Lake Oswego, OR
Cultural Sensibilities IV, Littman Gallery, Portland, OR (catalog)
- 2008 *Organic Industry*, Olympic Mills Gallery, Portland, OR
RE:Art, BRING Gallery, Eugene OR