

JURIED ART EXHIBITION



**ARTIST
AWARDS
BY
CATEGORY**

October 27 to November 5, 2023
Norma Hertzog Community Center
Costa Mesa, California

ABOUT ARTVENTURE

ARTventure began in 2015 and was conceptualized by the Cultural Arts Committee, a passionate volunteer group, now reconfigured as the Costa Mesa Arts Commission.

ARTventure was originally a three-day art event. The first and original event showcased a Juried Art Show of local artists and featured performances, demonstrations, and interactive activities from all arts disciplines. The event was created to highlight Costa Mesa's "City of the Arts" motto, designated by the City Council in 1984.

Over the past 8 years, the event has changed locations and been hosted at various venues; Cisco Home and Design Within Reach Showrooms located within the South Coast Collection (SOCO), the lobby of the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall, the Samueli Theater, and for the year 2023, is hosted at two locations: Norma Hertzog Community Center and the Orange County Museum of Art.

The Juried Art Exhibition is on display from October 27 through November 5, 2023 at the NHCC. The event also includes a Community Arts Day and Awards Ceremony.

We hope you enjoy ARTventure 2023!

ARTVENTURE AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR:

ABSTRACT ART

FIBER ART

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REPRESENTATIONAL ART

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YOUTH ART

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HONORABLE MENTIONS FOR EACH CATEGORY

MEET THE JURORS

ALISA OCHOA

Alisa Ochoa is an artist, educator, and advocate based in Costa Mesa. Her practice incorporates a range of media, including ceramics, painting, and video. Meticulously crafted objects and their material stand in for time, memory, and resilience. Ochoa's art has been exhibited across the United States and internationally at venues including Berkeley's Kala Art Institute, Malmo's Galleri CC, and International Print Center of New York. Her work has been featured by publications including Los Angeles Times, Juxtapoz Magazine, and Glasstire, among others. Ochoa is a member of Tiger Strikes Asteroid, a 501c3 non-profit network of independently programmed, artist-run exhibition spaces dedicated to lifting up underrepresented work and voices. She currently serves on the Arts Commission for the City of Costa Mesa.

VALENTINA APRODA MAURER

Valentina Aproda Maurer is an artist and educator working primarily in conceptual self-portraiture photography. She earned her Master of Fine Arts in Creative Photography and Experimental Media from California State University Fullerton and her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art (Photography) from the University of California, Riverside.

Aproda Maurer's work revolves around notions of identity and perception. She is interested in challenging the traditional self-portrait by questioning the relationships between identity, persona, self-imagery, environment, and social perceptions. Her current research focuses on the psychological ways we see and perceive ourselves and others through portrait photography. Alongside her artist practice, Aproda Maurer teaches Analog and Digital Photography at Cal State Fullerton. She is also an active exhibiting artist and has shown work in many local exhibitions.

Website: aprodaart.com

IG: @aprodaart

ABSTRACT ART

DEBRA LYNN MANVILLE

No Crying at the Apple Store



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Debra Manville is a painter who began her artistic journey at 12. Reading books on Pop, Contemporary, Graffiti and Modern art from a young age, she began to acquire a taste for bright colors and strong compositions. As a young adult, she painted through college and also afterwards, having her first solo in 2005 in New Brunswick New Jersey. Her second solo was in New York and her third was in Hoboken, New Jersey. As the digital age became quite enticing, she learned Illustrator and began a series of over 1000 digital pieces, showcased on her Instagram, @1milliondebbies. Finding it hard to ignore the language of the art she was exposed to online, she began @1milliondiamonds, her art curation account, in April of 2016. She resides in Temecula, and she is currently working on a new series of work with strong geometric language.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Over the past ten years, I have undergone a powerful spiritual transformation that opened my mind up to a new type of multidimensional energy and language. This understanding has allowed me to not only speak in a stronger art language, but also live a much better life. It has also been a source of inspiration to form and become curator of a symbol and semiotics- based art Instagram account @1milliondiamonds that I started seven years ago. Communication takes on many forms. In art, there are many ways that art speaks to us. Through years of digital art practice, I have found my own new language in art. In this language, there is a juxtaposition of silence and tension. The work may seem simple, but it is truly about what is being said. Just as in graphic design, a typeface will express a personality, just as in interior design, a piece of furniture will emanate its purpose and elegance, the same holds true for the forms represented in this art. I like the concept of silence in artwork. Shapes and lines are the structure to the language, silently conveying meaning. Each curve and bend are pauses, liaisons and exclamation points. Forms are the main idea, the meat of the subject, or a question. Colors are the accent and octave in which the language is spoken. Each piece interacts with the viewer about their own internal dialogue. I find art like a Rorschach test. It will give each person a different feeling and no matter what, it is based upon the viewer's perception. It is speaking its own language to each individual viewer.

FIBER ART

MARIANNA BAKER

Feelings That Bind Me



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Marianna Baker is a fiber artist + ceramic artist + sculpture + dreamer + fashionista + lover of all witty, funny modern and especially mid-century modern stuff.

She is an ex-multimedia designer who found happiness through reinvention as an artist.

ARTIST STATEMENT

My work is an examination of the different forms this shield takes, and the thinking that lies behind it.

MIXED MEDIA

KIRBY PIAZZA

Death of Marat Deux



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Kirby Piazza has been making art in and around the Newport Mesa area for over 20 years. He is in a multitude of mediums including ceramics, photography, graphic design and mixed-media. His works are often functional and useful in both utilitarian and political ways.

ARTIST STATEMENT

Death of Marat Deux is a play on and update to the great 18th century masterpiece of Jacques-Louis David.

PHOTOGRAPHY

BRIAN CARR

I've Found You



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

In his widely acclaimed work in toy photography, Brian brings to life his lifelong love and passion for video game, movie, and comic book characters as well as his previous work in the video game industry. Through countless hours of practice and experimentation, Brian keeps improving his techniques as he creates incredibly realistic and frequently human-like depictions of characters for his enormous body of original and commissioned work. Toytography Magazine, which is in its fourth edition, was also founded by Brian Carr. The purpose of the magazine is to inspire readers and provide them with advice on how to develop their skills. In March of this year, Brian received the Small Business Achievement Award from the RISE Financial Pathways group for his publication. Sharing his work on social media not only inspired him to work harder to create better photos, lighting setups, and narratives, but it also attracted admirers and recognition. Brian's outstanding, original work caught the attention of big businesses like Sideshow Collectibles. He received an invitation to take part in one of their well-liked webisodes, "Strike a Pose," in October 2021. Reaching thirty-three countries (so far) to share his love, passion, and exploration of toy photography is only the beginning for Brian and the magazine. Bringing in world-class photographers, artists, and toy experts encompassing all aspects of the trade makes each issue a wondrous experience with behind-the-scenes tips, information, and insider secrets.

ARTIST STATEMENT

I am a Toytographer based in Los Angeles, California. With my knowledge of composition and lighting, I use my camera to capture unedited images of limited-Edition High-End Collectibles that enhance details and create the illusion of life. As an artist, my goal is always to bring help and provide inspiration. Toys have become my canvas and my camera is the brush.

REPRESENTATIONAL ART

TERESA HILL

La Luchadora



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Teresa Hill is a biracial female artist who was born and lived in Houston, Texas for 42 years before relocating to Southern California to pursue her degrees in art. She works in the canyon of Laguna Beach. Her paintings stem from her life experience as a biracial (White/ Mexican) woman who was born and raised, and still lives in the simulacrum of cis-heteropatriarchal, white American culture.

ARTIST STATEMENT

At an early age I learned to exist in the gray space between my two cultures. Code switching, assimilating, and smiling and being quiet were key to be accepted and for blending in to be invisible. Making art was a natural way of coping, though I didn't recognize this until much later in life. I was around 38 years of age when I realized that art is a powerful language, and yet it wasn't until I was 48 that I dared to use art as a way to communicate about who I am and how I see the world as a biracial woman, instead of painting pretty pictures that might please. At the start of painting honestly, I saw my different series of works as fragments that had no connection; painting was difficult, and progress was slow and felt arduous. I often shut down creatively because the subject matter dredged up traumatic memories. With the help of a therapist I began to see that these compartments are actually the sum of who I am. These "compartments" are a true representation of the intersections created by the cultural, gender and religious expectations put upon me as "other" in white American culture. With the encouragement of my children, a sister, and close friends, I continue to use the language of art to tell my story. Through painting I express survival, loss, the desire for human connection, and I describe the healing power, grounding, and sense of agency and joy I feel through uncovering matriarchal wisdom as I heal.

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

ANTONIO KIM

Blooming Rebellion



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Antonio Kim is a Korean-American ceramic artist based out of Los Angeles. He focuses on transitioning 14th- 17th century Korean ceramic forms to contemporary times using thematic elements to invoke human intrigue. Using analytical knowledge of fine art in 14th-17th century Korea, Antonio explores how certain characteristics and desires of ceramic art could translate over to suffice modern standards. His works also implore how human emotions, both negative and positive, could be evoked through the destruction of form. The destruction has complex meanings that have heavy historical value. It is an homage to the Korean plight as well as a visceral understanding and acceptance of complex human emotions in our lives.

Lastly, Antonio routes back to his roots as a Korean-American; the societal performativity to conduct himself as Korean while struggling to negotiate how American values have crafted his vision and art. He examines how these two facets are not necessarily in contrast with each other, but also how to combine the two backgrounds into one cultural identity.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The submitted artworks are the two best personal works that I have created this year. They translate my desire to depict the traditional Korean forms: one is a moon jar that has been redefined through the addition of a highly regarded mythical animal, while the other highlights the emotional aspect of a destroyed yet still complete maebyeong vase.

The *Unearthed Dragon Moon Jar* serves to depict the dragon and the vessel that it serves to protect. Arguably one of the most historical and influential ceramic works of Korea, as a whole, is the Moon Jar. It is only fitting that a mythical creature that is revered by folklore serves to protect such a cultural icon. The visual interpretation of the dragon is also rooted within the blue-cobalt drawings traditionally found in white porcelain wares. However, I feel that adding the 3D pop-out component dignifies the dragon to modern art standards.

The Blooming Rebellion is my interpretation of the Korean-American identity with respect to traditional Korean artworks. Rather than conform to standards set by master Korean ceramicists, I feel that adding the burst feature highlights the Korean-American frustration of their own identity being encapsulated into mainland Korean identity. It is blossoming in rebellion to this assumption and presents the differing opinions of varying Korean backgrounds.

YOUTH ART

LOLA YAN

Memento Mori



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Lola Yan is a 17-year-old artist born in Hong Kong. Originally living in Shenzhen, China, she immigrated to the US at age 8 alongside her family in 2014. Lola Yan is a part of the Valencia Technology program at Valencia High School and is also a student at Ryman Arts, a studio art program designed to teach students foundational drawing and painting skills. Specializing in digital mediums (specifically, Adobe Photoshop), she uses glowing colors and dramatic contrast to create works that contemplate human mortality. Yan is also interested in other mediums such as charcoal, acrylic, oil, watercolor, and ink, creating traditional artworks that utilize inspiration from traveling, spending time with family and friends, and coming-of-age life experiences. She currently lives in Yorba Linda, spending most of her time outside of school working on pieces in her bedroom art studio.

ARTIST STATEMENT

The submitted artwork explores a person's contemplation of their mortality from multiple perspectives. Submission 1 views death not from a perspective of fear, but as a form of acceptance. Glowing waves and lights surrounding the figure highlight a deep respect for death's power and its ability to stir up both uncomfortable and relieving emotions. Lily pads and lotus flowers set up a peaceful environment, further highlighting the quiet acceptance of death's inevitability. The 2nd submission represents the loss of relationships under death and a longing for human connection with someone who has already passed away (displayed by the two skeletons reaching out to each other). Scattered everyday objects (flower bouquets, plates & utensils in the background) exemplify how sudden death can flip people's lives upside down. Melting clocks throughout the piece remind the viewer that death transcends time; it can strike whenever it wants, possessing omnipotent power. These digital artworks were transformed into physical artworks by printing the finished piece from Adobe Photoshop.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

ROLAND ESCALONA

Praying for Answers



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Educated and trained as an architectural designer, Roland is a self-taught artist who doesn't dwell on a specific medium or artistic theme. So far, he has used mixed media, acrylic, pastel, digital arts, pencil, ink and photography. A lot of times he creates art pieces when he gets inspired by something, by an event, by an idea or by the works of other artists. He has received multiple regional and national awards that include First Place winner of the Architectural Record magazine Cocktail Napkin Sketch Competition in 2014; Best of show for Costa Mesa's Artventure in 2016; Best of Show in the Amateur division at the Orange County Fair in 2018; Best Hand Delineation Award for the Ken Roberts Memorial Architectural Delineation Competition in 2020; and Architectural Artist of the Year for the Art Comes Alive Competition for ADC Fine Art Cincinnati in 2021.

ARTIST STATEMENT

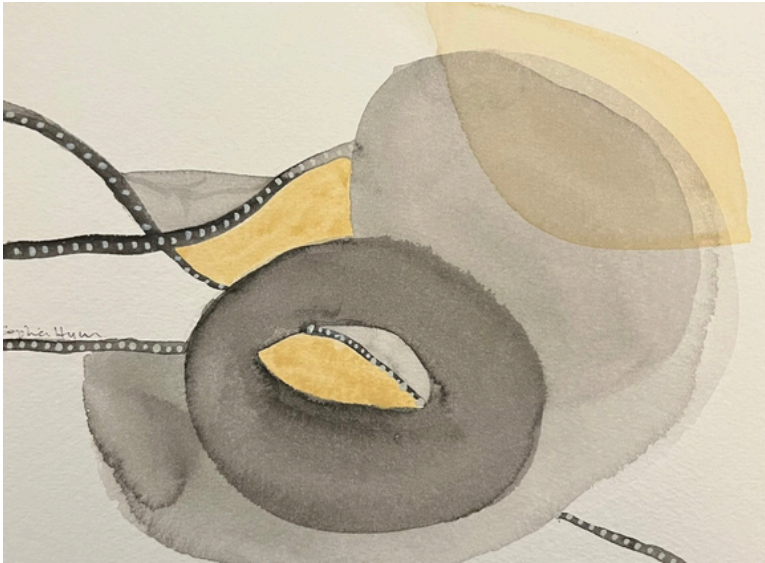
For this show, the pieces I am submitting are my artistic interpretations of my personal emotions brought by tragic events that happened to people I know and the sadness and frustration that I continue to feel about our current global and local affairs.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

ABSTRACT ART

Sophia Hyun

Nature III



FIBER ART

Tiffany Nassirian

Under the Sea



PHOTOGRAPHY

Isabelle Winardi

Musical Chair



MIXED MEDIA

Ronald Chee

Tribal Council



HONORABLE MENTIONS

THREE-DIMENSIONAL ART

Gia Wahle

Effervescence



REPRESENTATIONAL ART

Fernando Reyes

Wasteland Playground



YOUTH ART

Shinwoo Eom

Unbreakable Bonds



PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Abbott Fahl

Caliente



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