

West Coast's Largest Fine Art Festival Hits San Diego in April

Written by Nichole Brophy

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Boasting a successful history and well-known reputation, San Diego's Mission Federal ArtWalk will welcome art appreciators to its bevy of festivities this month for the 27th time.



I can't think of a better city to play host to the largest open-air fine art festival on the West Coast than San Diego. With a cool California breeze as the backdrop, the event will feature artists who have been selected for their work in painting, sculpture, glasswork, photography, and other mediums. The featured artists will have a prominent booth display at Mission Federal ArtWalk and will be recognized at surrounding VIP events and exposure activities. If a SoCal vacation is on the itinerary, be sure to shape your schedule to accommodate the Mission Federal ArtWalk, which will be held during the weekend of Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 1, 2011. The event will fill approximately 16 blocks in the hip and historic Little Italy downtown neighborhood.

An aspect that makes the ArtWalk so special is the interaction attendees experience with the artists themselves. Visitors can delve into the minds of these inspired artists in addition to perusing some of their most incredible works to date.

There will be no shortage of entertainment this particular weekend either, as dozens of musical performances are scheduled to entertain the more than 120,000 anticipated attendees of the event.

This free event features thousands of pieces of artwork created by artists from California, neighboring states, and Mexico. All must be accepted into the event to ensure attendees will experience a range of fine visual and performing art including painting, sculpture, glasswork, photography, select jewelry, and other artisan work.



Of the more than 400 artists participating in the event, some of the featured artists for the 27th Mission Federal ArtWalk include:

Donald Archer, whose contemporary paintings have an unforgettable presence, thanks to his water media technique that layers colors and textures to capture his unique interpretation of the design and feelings of landscape and the California coast. He currently resides in Cambria, near the Big Sur Coast and will enjoy his visit for the event in his hometown of Southern California.

Manuel G. Avendano is known for his paintings, which are heavily influenced from his roots living in several small and main cities in Mexico. From traditional Hispanic scenes of flamenco dancers to tango dancers, to his commissioned pieces for major figures and politicians from Mexico, he brings culture from across the International Mexico border to the event.

Esther Barr, known fondly for her work using copper to create unique art forms, with a focus on sea creatures, brings variety to this year's featured artist line-up. She will be visiting the fine art festival from Burbank, Calif.

Maite Benito Agahnia, is known for her work in abstract and mixed media. She was born in Mexico City and now resides in La Jolla, Calif. Part of Art6, she is one of six women artists who share a passion for painting. Her vision sets her work apart as she enjoys the process of painting more than the finished product.

Nelson de la Nuez, known as the "King of Pop Art" brings celebrity fanfare to the event's featured artist line-up as he has been listed on the "Who's Who List of the Most Collected Artists of Our Time" for his bold and outspoken artwork, both in color and often subject matter. His mixed media paintings use acrylic and watercolor paints, oil pastels and inks. De La Nuez's artwork is collected by many well-known celebrities and has been featured on countless television shows, including "VH1: Fabulous Life of: "The Latest in Billionaire Home Décor," "Celebrity Apprentice," "Inside Edition," MTV's show "Cribs," HGTV's "Designer's Challenge," E!'s "Celebrity Favorites," and "TMZ: Michael Jackson's Final Art Purchase."

Robert Weil comes to the event from Malibu, Calif. with an array of personalities captured in his paintings. A self-proclaimed "image junkie," Weil has produced artwork for more than 40 years using lithography, silkscreen, etching, monotype, offset lithography, computer graphics, photography, acrylic painting on wood, aluminum, and canvas. The event is primed for him to draw visitors from wide and far to view his artwork and get the chance to meet him in person.

To Learn More

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Mission Federal ArtWalk, www.missionfederalartwalk.org.