

CASA DE ORO LIBRARY ART — MEET THE ARTISTS

EXTERIOR WALL FEATURE

Jean Cornwell Wheat has made art for the past 40 years. She trained and worked professionally as an illustrator for six years, then went back to school and studied art history, fine art and art education. She taught at San Diego Community Colleges for 15 years. Jean is the recipient of many grants, commissions and awards. Her work has been exhibited and sold in the United States and throughout the world. According to Jean, art can be “that passionate, that swift, and that natural. There are moments in time when art, the artist, and that invisible primal urge merge and become one.”



Wendell Kling is a San Diego-based interdisciplinary artist and educator. He received his BA and MFA in studio art from UCSD. He has shown his artwork locally and nationally and has two permanent public artworks in the San Diego Civic Art Collection. He is professor of sculpture at San Diego Mesa College. Wendell’s work is grounded in contemporary interdisciplinary practice and includes sculpture, two-dimensional media, installation, performance, film and video. Many of his artworks are hand cut paper and utilize traditional German folk art (scherenschnitte) passed to him by his mother.



MAIN ENTRANCE MOBILE



Vicki Leon has been a dedicated, working artist for over 30 years. As a mixed-media sculptor, her focus is the magic and beauty of light, which she strives for both physically and metaphorically. The ever-changing shifts and nuances of daylight inform the essence of her sensory style which is inspired by moments in nature when light gives us surprising experiences of awe-inspiring beauty. Her techniques include a unique combination of skills, methods and processes including mosaic, stainless steel plasma cutting, wood carving, glass carving and the use of an array of light interactive materials and solar lighting.



Terri Hughes-Oelrich is an artist based in San Diego, where she has lived for 32 years, inspired by the beauty of the outdoors through gardening, hiking, and advocating for the environment. Nature brings her joy and awe, and she strives to share those feelings with viewers through her work. Her practice is rooted in environmental themes, exploring sustainability, ecology, and material reuse. For 20 years, she has taught art at San Diego City College. She holds an MFA in ceramics from San Diego State University and a BA in studio art from the University of California Santa Barbara.

INTERIOR WALL ART

Janelle Despot is a multidisciplinary artist, designer, and creative director based in San Diego. Her work blends beauty, soul, and intention—whether creating intimate personal pieces, immersive environments, or collaborating. She serves as creative director of *Skunk Magazine* and partners with clients, nonprofits, and visionaries to bring their meaning and purpose to life through art. She sees everything as art and believes everyone is inherently creative—as threads in our big cosmic tapestry. Her intention is to reflect something honest, heartfelt, and alive, so people can recognize a piece of themselves in it.



Beliz Iristay is a San Diego-based Turkish American artist with roots on both sides of the Mexico-USA border. She lives and works in Baja California and San Diego. Her work reflects her search for personal identity. As an immigrant she is compelled to use art as a translator between very different cultures. She is interested in how cultures tie together. Her artwork has been in museums, community colleges and private galleries in the United States, Mexico and Europe. Of special note is a juxtaposition of traditional ceramics from Türkiye with modern materials and contemporary border experiences.



Maxx Moses is an international muralist who has travelled to over 21 countries making art and leading workshops. His art is rooted in the illegal art form of graffiti. Breaking rules, taking risks, and relying on his intuition expanded his boundaries. The foundation of his artistic practice is self-discovery, self-identity, and self-expression. Daniel Hopkins (aka Maxx Moses) was born in New York City and resides in San Diego. He is a graduate of Brockport University with a BA degree in business and a minor in fine art. Maxx is fascinated with the idea of pop-up books, which literally expand upon opening.

