

## **San Diego IKE Launch - Artist Statements**

*Updated Nov 8, 2024*

### **Doris Bittar**

*Curvy Triangles, 2016*

Interdisciplinary artist Doris Bittar creates paintings, collages, assemblages, sculpture, performance, public art and sound. She is the first Arab American California Arts Council Legacy Artist awardee for artistic accomplishments, mentoring of young artists, and community organizing. Bittar explores overlapping colonial heritages, migratory narratives and diasporic identities within historical contexts, viewing patterns as cultural DNA mutating in tandem with human migration and attached to codes of decorum that may facilitate difficult discourse. She has shown in international biennials and her work is in several museum collections.

Bittar's current project, Colonial Colonnade, first premiered at the Arab American National Museum in Michigan and concretizes texts to examine how immersive environments and improvisational art conjure Arab futurism. Bittar, the oldest of five children, was born in Baghdad, Iraq to Lebanese and Palestinian parents who immigrated to the United States from Beirut when the artist was about six years old. Bittar holds a BFA from the State University of New York Purchase, an MFA from the University of California San Diego, and a fellowship at the Whitney Museum's Independent Studies Program.

### **German Corrales**

*Butterfly Man Jaguar, 2024*

The wood installation *Jaguar Man Butterfly* is a mixture of all cultures of Mexico and of the artist's travels. It was inspired by the turmoil and resilience the artist came out of as a result of 2024. To Corrales, this work is his shield and protection from the world.

### **Kelsey Brookes**

*$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ , 2022*

*$F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$*  was made using video footage of the surface of one of Brookes' paintings. The artist cut up and rearranged that footage into a different sized circle and then arranged those circles into a pattern using Fibonacci's famous numbers. The equation to drive each of his numbers is the title of the piece:  $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$ .

### **Mario Chacon**

*Maizyoltl, 2014*

Mario Chacon is a San Diego based artist whose vibrant, socially relevant work can be viewed in several public murals throughout San Diego County. Born in the East Los Angeles community of Boyle Heights, with roots in El Paso, Texas, and the Sierra Tarahumara of Chihuahua, Chacon strives to weave a balance of urban street wisdom, indigenous spirituality, and a healthy sense of humor into his artistic endeavors. As a practicing artist for over 25 years, Chacon has exhibited his work in galleries throughout the Southwest. His work is featured in various publications, book covers, and music recording jackets. His colorful, meaningful work can be characterized as reflective of Chicano/Mexicano/and Native American cultures and is informed by the experiences of these cultures in the United States.

### **Marisa DeLuca**

*Cave, 2024*

Marisa DeLuca (she/her) is a remodernist artist working in painting, drawing, and photography. Her practice examines intersections between time, memory, impermanence, and critical theory. Marisa comes from a background of community engagement through nonprofit service in the arts sector. She is the founder and President of the nonprofit Artists in Solidarity, an artist collective that raises funds for migrant families through charity art auctions. Marisa is a San Diego native based in Oceanside, California and received her BA in Visual Arts (Studio) from UC San Diego in 2021. She is currently pursuing her MFA at San Diego State University's School of Art + Design.

Meditating on her home, Oceanside, California, DeLuca explores notions of impermanence in physical spaces, making connections between reality, illusion, and intuition. The body of work – including *Cave* – explores memory, temporality, and the powerlessness one experiences navigating endangered urban spaces that are subject to the homogenizing forces of cultural liquidation. Elevating the mystery of the mundane as something worthy of meditation has become a cornerstone in DeLuca's work. She is most interested in honoring the memory of the everyday in her paintings. Examination of the impermanence of life, the nonlinear quality of time, and the humanistic quality of the trace in these spaces are functions of her paintings and drawings.

### **Thao French**

*The Year of the Tiger, 2022*

*The Year of the Tiger* is a mural by Thao Huynh French of Mindful Murals, painted during the Year of the Tiger for the Lunar New Year, or as the Vietnamese call it, "Tet." The work celebrates the history and resilience of the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon, San Diego, and is located at Minh Ky Restaurant.

Every interactive kiosk in San Diego provides interested small businesses, community organizations, and artists the opportunity to be featured prominently on IKE digital kiosks. To learn more about the program and process to be featured, please reach out to [publicbenefit@ikesmartcity.com](mailto:publicbenefit@ikesmartcity.com).