



[NEW CONTEMPORARIES II](#)

Emerging Artists nominated for the SD Art Prize 2009

Presented by the [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) and [SanDiegoArtists.com](#)

Emerging Artists:

[David Adey](#)

[Tania Alcala](#)

[Michele Guieu](#)

[Keikichi Honna](#)

[Omar Pimienta](#)

[Marisol Rendon](#)

[Daniel Ruanova](#)

[Tara Smith](#)

[Matt Stallings](#)

[K.V. Tomney](#)

[Jen Trute](#)

[Gustabo Velasquez](#)

[Yuransky](#)

Opening Reception: Wednesday, February 18, 2009 – Saturday, March 21, 2009 at

[Noel-Baza Fine Art and India Street Gallery](#)

2165 India Street - San Diego, CA 92101

619.876.4160 noel-baza@cox.net



Emerging Artists nominated for the SD Art Prize 2009

ALL emerging artists in the SD region are eligible to be chosen by the established recipients each season including but not limited to nominated artists in this and previous New Contemporaries exhibitions.



The **SD ART PRIZE** is dedicated to the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and rewarding ingredient of any world-class city and a building block of the lifestyle of its residents. Conceived to promote and encourage dialogue, reflection and social interaction about San Diego's artistic and cultural life, this annual award honors artistic expression. The **SD ART PRIZE**, a cash prize with exhibition opportunities, spotlights established San Diego artists and emerging artists whose outstanding achievements in the field of Visual Arts merit the recognition.

[Award Recipients for 2007/2008](#)

Marcos Ramirez ERRE with emerging artist **Allison Wiese**

Roman De Salvo with emerging artist **Lael Corbin**

Eleanor Antin with emerging artist **Pamela Jaeger**

[Award Recipients for 2006/2007](#)

Raul Guerrero with emerging artist **Yvonne Venegas**

Jean Lowe with emerging artist **Iana Quesnell**

Ernest Silva with emerging artist **May-ling Martinez**

THE Goals of the SD ART PRIZE, as presented by the San Diego Visual Arts Network, are to:

- Recognize and celebrate existing visual art accomplishments by spotlighting local artists.
- Create an exciting event that facilitates cross-pollination between cultural organizations and strengthens and invigorates the San Diego Visual Art Scene.
- Broaden the audience of the visual arts in San Diego by gaining national attention to the competition through a dedicated media campaign.
- Promote the vision of the future role that the visual arts will play in the San Diego community as lively, thriving, positive and empowering.
- Expand the infrastructure of spokespeople/art celebrities who can bring awareness to San Diego and perform as role models for our student artists.

The 2009 nominating committee, which changes yearly, consists of SD Art Prize recipients for the previous year, writers for the SD Art Prize Art Notes, Honorary Hosts and the SD Art Prize committee: Lael Corbin, Allison Weise, Pamela Jaegar, Eleanor Antin, Marcos Ramiriz (Erre), Roman de Salvo,

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

2487 Montgomery Avenue, Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007 info@sdvisualarts.net 760.943.0148 Public Charity 501 (c) 3 EIN #20-5910283

[New Contemporaries II: Emerging Artists nominated for the 2009 SD Art Prize at Noel-Baza Fine Art](#)

Tom Noel and Larry Baza made the choices of works by these artists spending hours to showcase each artists so they could be seen in the best possible light. The SD Art Prize is extremely grateful to them both for their efforts on our behalf. We hope our readers support this exhibition with your attendance and purchase of the works by these up and coming creative talents.

Introduction to the Exhibition by Larry Baza

New Contemporaries II is an extremely varied exhibition with thirteen different takes, visions or statements on 21 st century life, important enough to be made into visual art by thirteen artists living and working in San Diego County. This show comes together not in the traditional manner in which a show is curated by one or more curators or gallerists around a central theme or a specific art form. Instead, the artists showcased in *New Contemporaries II* were nominated for the San Diego Art Prize, a project of the San Diego Visual Arts Network. The artists were selected by professionals for the quality, excellence and the promise of their work in the "Emerging Artists Category." The nominators included other artists, gallerists, a curator, art collectors/patrons, an art critic, and arts administrators. Essentially, this exhibition provides viewers with a great opportunity to experience a microcosm of the high quality of art being made in this region by thousands of artists.

[Noel-Baza Fine Art](#) is pleased to host *New Contemporaries II* which affirms our belief in the fine art being made by local artists. We are sure that viewers will have the chance to be delighted, challenged, dazzled, and provoked by the variety of art put forth by these artists. Our following brief comments on the work of each artist hopefully will encourage you to read each artist's statement about their work which will enhance the experience and dialogue you have with each work of art. **Tania Alcalá's** paintings present the essence of color. **David Adey's** work, both three-dimensional and mixed media, reconstructs American icons. **Michele Guieu's** thought provoking work on her life and ours has a cinematic quality. **Keikichi Honna** comments on contemporary life with humor and an absurdist bent. **Omar Pimiento** continues the dialogue on the Mexico/U.S. Border with Lady Liberty and Libertad. **Marisol Rendon** makes social commentary with light and shadow. **Daniel Ruanova's** painting and three dimensional work challenge the viewer with an aggressive declaration. **Tara Smith's** paintings involve scale and proportion creating tension between huge trucks and humans. **Matt Stallings'** narrative portraits expose American icons. **K.V. Tomney** provides us with glimpses of mid century America with reflected light and elegant line. **Jen Trute's** masterful and operatic paintings warn of the growing scourge upon the natural environment. **Gustabo Velasquez** creates three dimensional tableaux using discarded "left-for-dead objects." **Yuransky** the founder of a new philosophy of painting, *Zedism*, presents his unique mathematically based vision. One of the most exciting aspects of this show will be watching the trajectory of each artist's career as it moves forward.

We offer our sincere thanks to the all of the Artists, the Nominating Committee, Patricia Frischer, Ann Berchtold, and the San Diego Art Prize for the opportunity to host this exciting exhibition. Mil Gracias/A Thousand Thanks to our family for their work to make this show happen: Marc Baza, Gigi Cantin, Mary Cunningham, Sarah Garcia, Evelyn Mitchell, and Pierrette Van Cleve.

Larry Baza and Tom Noel, [Noel-Baza Fine Art](#)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2009 :

SD Art Prize Artists 2007-08: Lael Corbin, Allison Weise, Pamela Jaegar, Eleanor Antin, Marcos Ramiriz (Erre), Roman de Slavo;

Art Notes Contributors 2007-08: Alice Diamond, Kevin Freitas, Mark Murphy, Betti-Sue Hertz, Lucia Sanroman, Erika Torri, Doug Simay, Larry Poteet;

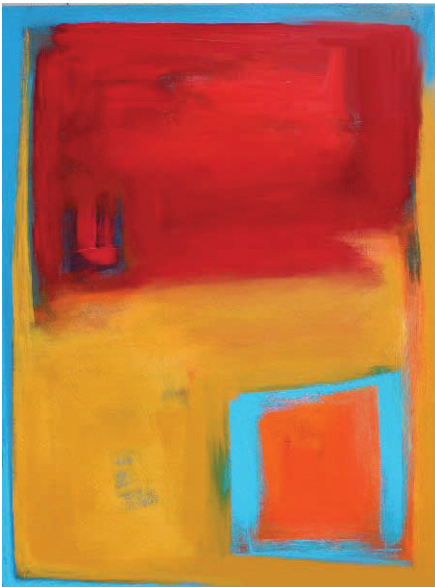
SD Art Prize honorary Chairpersons 2007-08: Vivian Lim and Joe Wong, Patti and Coop Coopridger, Cap and Julie Pinney;

SD Art Prize Committee: Patricia Frischer, Ann Berchtold



David Adey

David Adey was born in Morristown, NJ in 1972. He graduated with a BA in Visual Art from Point Loma Nazarene University in 1994. He spent the next six years in the graphic design field first in New York and later in San Diego with Mires Brands Inc. working for clients such as Intel, Pepsi, Nike, Qualcomm, Taylor Guitars, Hasbro, Sega, and Universal Studios. He left Mires to attend Cranbrook Academy of Art in Michigan where he received his MFA in Sculpture in 2002. He has had recent exhibitions in San Diego, Los Angeles, Detroit, Boston and Berlin. He is currently professor in the Department of Art and Design at Point Loma Nazarene University. Adey is showing at [Luis de Jesus Seminal Projects](#)



Tania Alcala

“Art is all about freedom...”

Tania Alcala was born and raised in Mexico City. She obtained a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Ottawa University in Phoenix, AZ and a master's degree in Transformative Arts from John F. Kennedy University in Berkeley, CA. The sense of the ethereal that Alcala discovered in the paintings of artists like Mark Rothko, is what inspired her to become a commercial pilot to seek the freedom that she craved. Alcala's atmospheric pieces convey her deeply moving experiences from the skies along with her lifelong fascination with color. These abstract, expressionistic works of art have an inner complexity, compellingly and sensuously immersing the viewer in a uniquely personal way. Tania Alcala is represented by [Alexander Salazare Fine Art](#)





Michele Guieu

Originally from Marseille, France, Michèle Guieu lives and makes art in San Diego. Her many travels, years living in Senegal, a father geologist and a mother biologist, and a continued interest in world and political events, has only been matched by her insatiable curiosity and unbridled passion for art. It has made for a body of work uncharacteristically pure, filtered, and highly astute in its ability to transform a visual vocabulary into essential language that reflects our personal and collective hardships and joys. Guieu worked as a graphic designer with the political group [Grapus](#) and obtained a Masters Degree in Visual Communication from the [ENSAD](#) in Paris. Her work has been shown in Paris, Copenhagen, Le Mans and San Diego. June 2008 saw her solo exhibition *Here it's Peace* featured at the San Diego Art Institute.



Keikichi Honna

Being bilingual and having an interest in mathematical science has made Keikichi Honna question the function of language. Even though recorded words or written texts do not change their physical appearances; their meaning always contains a certain amount of ambiguity and uncertainty. Those fuzzy boundaries of words depend on each individual's experiences, as such each word brings Honna images and concepts which are uniquely his own. As a co-founder of the Pop Zen Institute, Honna focuses on humor, sarcasm, and irony, all of which reveal a huge gap between the letter and the spirit and reveal the limitation of human knowledge. Interestingly, modern physics and mathematics shares this same kind of dilemma. Honna's work, as visual analogy and pun, acts as his own accelerator, in which he observes the effects of collision of different concepts and images. While Honna's art keeps him sane and his hands dirty, his deceptions continue to allure.





Omar Pimienta

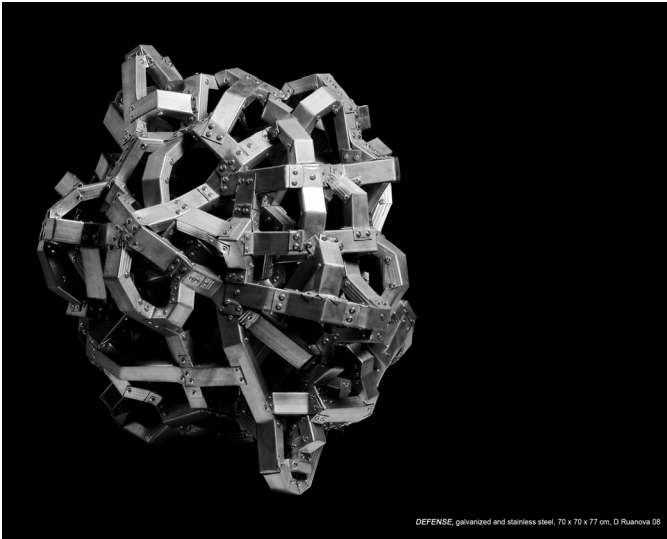
Omar Pimienta (Tijuana-San Diego) is an interdisciplinary artist who uses the lens of personal-geography while working with media such as photography, video, installations, and text, among others, in order to explore social landscapes, collective and individual histories, and the spaces within/between the imagination and the image. He received his B. A. in Latin American Studies from San Diego State University in 2006, and is currently an MFA candidate in the Visual Arts department at the University of California, San Diego. He has published two books of poetry, *Primera Persona: Ella* (Ediciones de La Esquina, 2004) and *La Libertad: Ciudad de Paso* (CECUT, 2006), which has recently been re-edited by Aullido Libros (Huelva,



Marisol Rendon

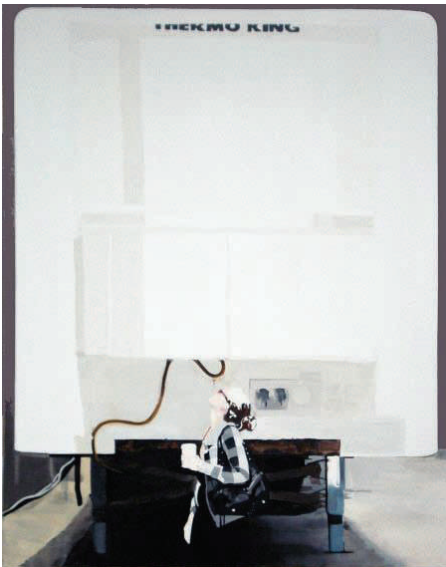
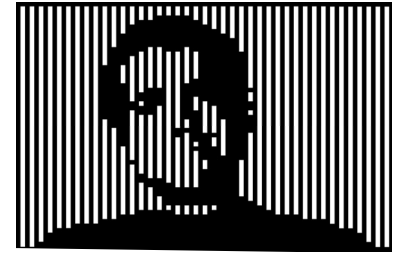
Marisol Rendón was born in 1975 in Manizales, Colombia. She began her BA in the School of Arts at the Caldas University, where, after her graduation, she worked as a professor for four years. In 1999 she acquired the title of, Specialist in Semiotics and Hermeneutics of Art, offered by the National University of Colombia. In 2001 she traveled to The United States in order to earn her MFA, in the Masters of Fine Arts program at Claremont Graduate University, California; where she focused her studio practice in installation as one of the new genres of art. In the last few years, Marisol has had several exhibitions in Southern California, where she resides, and also in her country of origin. In both countries, The United States and Colombia, she has obtained numerous awards and distinctions. Currently she serves as an associate professor in the Department of





Daniel Ruanova

Daniel Ruanova works with a variety of materials, often transforming canvases and found objects into unexpected forms. Despite his interest in drawing from popular culture, Ruanova is keenly aware of the formal concerns in painting and sculpture, and works to push the traditional boundaries of these media through his unconventional use of materials. He uses the fictitious worlds of children's toys, videogames, and comic books to create an ironic take on the current realities of war and violence. Ruanova presents a political commentary that is informed by the direct relationship of living at the border with the United States, but is global rather than local in its scope.



Tara Smith

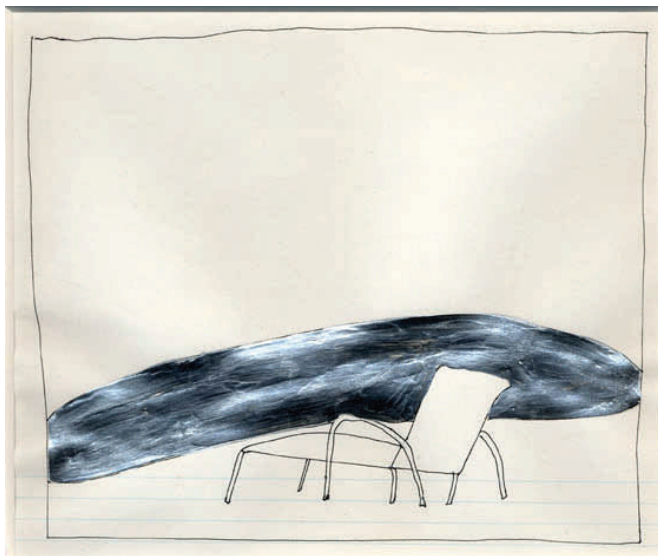
Tara Smith is interested in the ambiguity of abstraction while using aspects of recognizable landscape painting to explore perception and its guises. Her scraped paint surfaces and layered washes reflect the constantly distorted relationship with space with our environment. Within her current series, Monster Truck's, Smith explores man made structures such as semi trucks and gas towers as nostalgic landmarks and autonomous beasts of our world. Tara Smith graduated with distinction from Goldsmiths College, University of London (MFA) after studying at The Art Institute of Chicago (BFA). Her works have been shown in London, New York, Chicago and California.





[Matt Stallings](#)

Born in the small town of Ojai California (not Ohio), Matt is now a resident of San Diego for over 10 years. Stallings finds inspiration from most things that are uncomfortable, offbeat, simple, and adds his twist to popular culture. Working with his brother Jeromy Stallings running Ninthlink.com an online design and development agency downtown, He still finds time to show his works in the Gallery Space and produce illustration works for the advertising world. His medium is mainly acrylic on wood, but you can find smaller paintings on paper and canvas.



[K V Tomney](#)

K.V.Tomney received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from San Diego State University in 1988. For the past few years her work has been in pen and ink with a combination of silver mediums. An influence of southern California mid-century design is suggested in many of these works. They are somewhat spare, reductive drawings. This particular series has been shown in local venues which include the La Jolla Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, 4 Walls Gallery in San Diego and the Carlsbad library.





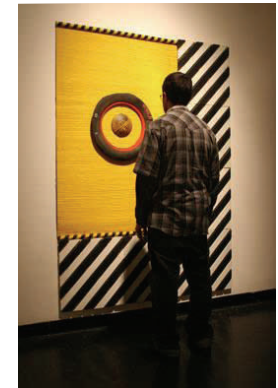
Jen Trute

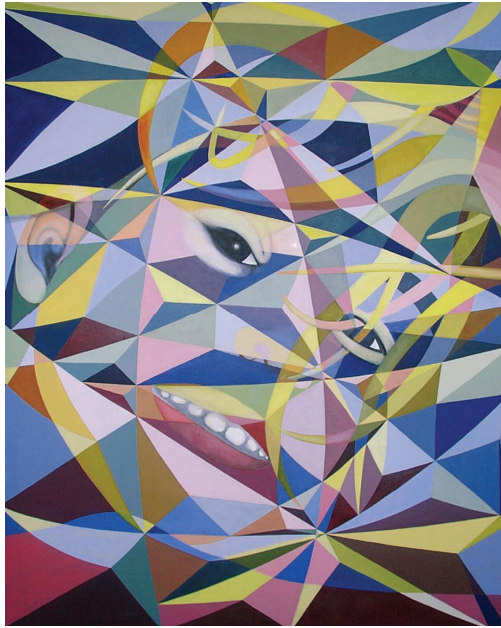
Jen Trute attended Massachusetts College of Art in Boston from 1978-1983 majoring in painting and graphic design. She freelanced as a graphic designer and illustrator in Boston and San Francisco until 1989 when she started specializing in storyboard and advertising illustration and worked for ad agencies in New York, Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, and Orange County. In addition she worked as a portrait artist in her free time. For the last 8 years she has been creating detailed, surreal paintings with environmental themes, and uses her advertising experience combined with her knowledge of traditional painting techniques to support environmental awareness and progress.



Gustabo Velasquez

Gustabo Velasquez's work focuses on human migration and how it intersects with and leaves traces on the physical landscape. He studies crude patchwork constructions for ideas and collects debris off the street, with the intent of adding it to future compositions. His art is made up of a collection of castoffs like himself from both sides of the border. He uses the unwanted refuse as layers in the backdrop of his art, while slipping in drawings, text, stitched sowings and paintings onto the items with the idea of creating a dialogue between the history of the objects and his own experiences.





Yuransky

In 1995, Yuransky galvanized a new aesthetic balance between the natural, technological and virtual world's that co-exist in today's information age. The artist decided definitively to pursue art as the main focus of his life's work at the age of five. To gain important perspective, he pursued studies in science and engineering as pre-requisites for his future creative endeavors. Subsequently he achieved success in the business world as the founder of Ego Id, Inc. (a creative marketing, design, and product manufacturing firm) so that his art would have a completely controlled environment. Yuransky opened Zedism Gallery in November 2006 and founded the School of Zedism shortly thereafter to showcase his collection of Zedist works, educate the public and teach the style to other artists. *Zedism is an aesthetic tuning fork of current western culture and heralds a prophetic glimpse into the "micro/macro" world of fine art, scientific progress, digital information systems and human interaction."



New Contemporaries I:

[Alida Cervantes](#), [Allison Wiese](#), [Andy Howell](#), [Ben Lavender](#), [Brad Streeper](#), [Brian Dick](#), [Camilo Ontiveros](#), [Lael Corbin](#), [Christopher N. Ferreria](#), [Jason Sherry](#), [Matt Devine](#), [Pamela Jaeger](#), [Nina Karavasiles](#), [Tania Candiani](#), [Nina Waisman](#), [Shannon Spanhake](#), [Tristan Shone](#)

Please note: Brian Dick and Matt Divine were nominated in 2009 but not included in this show as they were previously exhibited in **New Contemporaries I** held at [Simayspace at the Art Academy](#)



[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#): SDVAN is a database of information produced to improve the clarity, accuracy and sophistication of discourse about San Diego's artistic and cultural life and is dedicated to the idea that the Visual Arts are a vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN hosts a free interactive directory (over 1300 resources listed) and an events calendar covering all San Diego regions including Baja Norte with an opportunity section,

gossip column and the SmART Collector feature to help take the mystery out of buying art. SDVAN is the proud non-profit sponsor of the SD Art Prize. This is the only site designed exclusively for the San Diego region and the Visual Arts and is one of the most technically advanced sites of this kind in the country. SDVAN currently get 3-4000 unique visitors per month and over one million hits a year.



[Noel-Baza Fine Art](#): Noel-Baza Fine Art and India Street Gallery are located in the art and design district of San Diego's vibrant and historic Little Italy. With excellent restaurants, music clubs, galleries, furniture and design showrooms, the area is one of the most popular destinations for visitors and locals to walk, shop and dine all within a few blocks of San Diego Bay's beautiful waterfront. A lifetime spent working in the art world, in both commercial and non-profit, has led to the creation of this gallery specializing in original artwork of the highest quality and an ever-changing selection of prints and drawings by some of the art worlds most important names. Noel-Baza Fine Art

shows primarily original paintings and sculpture by living mid-career artists and original prints and drawings by acknowledged 20th century masters.



[SanDiegoArtists.com](#): Founded in April 2000 with the goal of providing a spotlight for emerging and established local artists. This site introduces new artist to the community via an e-mail newsletter and interviews on ART ROCKS internet radio.

[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#)

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