

# THE BIG 12

Mission Federal ArtWalk draws thousands to see works by hundreds of artists — especially this dazzling dozen

By Keli Dailey, STAFF WRITER

Anyone with an appetite for artistic saturation will be at the Mission Federal ArtWalk this weekend. That's when Little Italy turns into an outdoor gallery for San Diego's "largest urban arts festival."

ArtWalk takes over 16 city blocks and lines them with hundreds of artists and their work. Last year, \$1 million worth of art was sold. But the event's not just a feast for savvy art collectors and people whose walls are bare. There's festival food, and fine restaurants are nearby. The kids can indulge in

hands-on arts projects. And there's live music for your ears. Organizers expect 60,000 art lovers will cruise the free event each day, filling this warmhearted and parking-lot-challenged neighborhood nice and tight.

As far as the artwork's concerned, it can be said that ArtWalk depends on the drawing power of its 12 featured visual artists, several of whom appear in celebrity art collections, all of whom were cherry-picked from 500 ArtWalk applicants. The following photos are examples of their work, in a variety of media.

### DETAILS

**Mission Federal ArtWalk**

**Where:** Little Italy  
**When:** Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Admission:** Free  
**Online:** [mission-federalartwalk.org](http://mission-federalartwalk.org)

### ANDY ANH HA

What do Jessica Alba and Queen Latifah have in common? An Andy Anh Ha in their collection. According to his bio, the painter's style veers from modern-contemporary to "dadaist mixed media." All the lay-person needs to know is that his work celebrates the tranquil lines of the lotus flower, which appears in his more figurative paintings. Otherwise, his canvas is abstract, fluid and accented with reds blues and yellows. [andyanhha.com](http://andyanhha.com)



### BEN HORNE

This El Cajon resident is self-taught when it comes to landscape photography, although he holds a degree in graphic design from SDSU. There is an almost commercial awareness to his careful presentation of a La Jolla coastline with rib-like rock chunks under a vermilion sunset. But there's no product here — just aesthetics. [benhorne.com](http://benhorne.com)



### DIANE CHRISTIANSEN UKE

This Del Mar artist's canvas is treated with an Old World patina, and the style is instantly recognizable. "My work deals with the conflict between our fragile environment and the inevitability of modernization and progress," she says. She makes conflict seem serene. [dianeuke.com](http://dianeuke.com)

### CHARLES SHERMAN

Sherman makes giant colored ceramics that you'll need help getting to your car. (Consider having them shipped.) There are tiny ceramics, too. Mostly his sculptures reveal an obsession with the not-quite-oval, not-quite-circular shape of the Möbius ring. [charlesshermanart.com](http://charlesshermanart.com)



### RED WOLF

Wolf is a metalworker and painter who says, "My artwork represents an exploration into the creation of color through the manipulation of light in ways that until recently were not fully understood." We'd like to add that his melted-looking, abstract aluminum pieces remind us of the Greek ocean god Poseidon. [redwolffineart.com](http://redwolffineart.com)



### MONIQUE STRAUB

Let's move quickly past the fact that the La Mesa resident pronounces her name "Monet," and instead recognize the Spanish Village Art Center's resident artist for her friendly use of soft pastels. Her landscapes and still lifes are cheerful. Her subjects wriggle in jazzy lilac outlines, and the flowers in her "Poppy Dance," well, dance. [moniquestraub.com](http://moniquestraub.com)



### DANI DODGE

This mixed-media artist was part of the *Union-Tribune's* 2006 Pulitzer Prize-winning team. She's currently with the San Diego Zoo, but her artwork isn't cuddly or cute. Centered on the female form, she explores what she calls "the elusive truth of the human soul." From appearances, that could mean layered works full of ambience and texture that suggest complex emotions. [danidodge.com](http://danidodge.com)



### THOMAS BARBEY

This Las Vegas photographer has a unique vision. And if you've seen his "Tourist Trap" piece by the register at the Hob Nob Hill cafe on First Avenue, you probably oohed over the giant banyan tree whose roots swarm with tourists. It's a photo fusion, a photomontage: Barbey uses a darkroom technique that fuses multiple negatives to create white stallions emerging from icy cliffs or a castle floating above a waterfall. It's the photographer's second appearance at ArtWalk, but his first as a featured artist. This year, he's bringing enough of his impossibly surreal photomontage mash-ups to fill three tents. [thomasbarbey.com](http://thomasbarbey.com)



### WADE KONIAKOWSKY

It's no surprise our region produced an ocean artist. Koniakowsky's a North County surfer who paints "wavescapes" on canvas and surfboards. This Carlsbad resident does brisk business in Hawaii, if his gallery representation there is any indication. You can also find his oil paintings of sneering ocean waves and innocent island girls in a Solana Beach gallery. [koniakowsky.com](http://koniakowsky.com)

### KALLEN

Her recent black-and-white acrylics evoke the urban spirit of a place, or the fluid shapes of a landscape. Her use of extreme contrast, of negative and positive space, leaves an ominous feeling that lingers like a Japanese ghost. [artkallen.com](http://artkallen.com)



### KAREN EASTMAN

The Encinitas-based oil painter says she looks for the feminine spirit in natural forms. Like a director, she guides the eye to a tight focus on her supple subjects: leaves pulsing with aqua and green, cross-sections of rocks whose innards look like rose-and-gold ropes, and, of course, tree goddesses. [kareneastman.artspan.com](http://kareneastman.artspan.com)



### NOBE BABAYAN

Babayan creates fine art bronze sculptures that, like photographs of a dance performance, reduce motion to a single moment. A work usually marries together several unusual figures — a woman with two alert meerkats, say, or a toddler befriending a curious bull, or King Kong with his resigned lady captive. The sculptures are more about movement and sensuality, however, than storytelling. [nobeart.com](http://nobeart.com)