

make yourself



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Artists rely on the motif of home as a way to draw connections between personal histories and timely political themes including immigration, homelessness, urban planning, race, and gender. San Diego is one of the most culturally diverse regions in the country and is the point of convergence of many different communities. The transitory nature of much of our population is mirrored by the Airport's fleeting audience and allows for the exploration of ideas around movement to and from home by refugees, immigrants, and the military, among others.

Make Yourself at Home features sixteen distinct exhibitors whose artwork and collections explore how the concept of home differs for each person and shapes our memories, identities and sense of belonging. Selected by a jury of arts professionals. the participants were chosen based on their creativity. unique use of media, and relevance to the exhibition theme. Home is a lens through which people explore memory, identity, and belonging in an increasingly nomadic world. More recently, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, home became a safe haven-an all-in-one workplace, classroom and living space for millions of people around the globe. The term also took on significance as a desired destination that was not possible to reach for some, whether due to travel restrictions or health limitations.

FEATURED EXHIBITORS

- BELIZ IRISTAY
- 2. CAT CHIU PHILLIPS
- 3. CHERYL TALL
- 4. ELEANOR GREER
- 5. HIGH TECH MIDDLE
- 6. INGRID LERYVA
- 7. JANE BRUCKNER
- 8. JUDITH CHRISTENSEN
- 9. KATIE RUIZ
- 10. KERIANNE QUICK
- 11. KLINE SWONGER
- 12. LYNN SUSHOLTZ
- 13. MARISOL RENDÓN & INGRAM OBER
- 14. MICHAEL CHANG
- 15. NASSEM NAVAB

BELIZ IRISTAY

For many immigrants, the concept of home spans multiple physical locations, cultures, and languages. Turkish-American artist Beliz Iristay celebrates her three homes in this installation: San Diego (left), Mexico (center) and Turkey (right). Beliz' multinational lifestyle is reflected in her ceramics, which are created using Turkish techniques with clay from Mexican soil. In this work, Beliz combines traditional and contemporary symbols sourced from her three homes to create a style that uniquely represents her lived experiences.





CAT CHIU PHILLIPS

The method of capturing memories of home has evolved through the years. Through paintings, photographs, video tapes, slide projectors and other modes of technology, families have tenderly recorded their shared experiences. Artist, Cat Chiu Phillips, blends traditional methods of weaving with discarded magnetic tape gathered from VHS cassettes to create intricate tapestries of woven memories. Using the traditional doily as the base of their form, the unusual wall hangings evoke a sense of nostalgia and traditional domesticity. The once common medium for capturing memories of home, the magnetic VHS tapes, are woven and crocheted together, visually and symbolically blending these documented memories.

CHERYL TALL

Artist Cheryl Tall takes inspiration from the relationship between people and their environments, especially their homes or workplaces. Her sculptures fuse storybook illustration with surrealism and medieval folk art, depicting social issues, belonging, nostalgia, and our ongoing search for meaning and place. By combining contemporary references with ancient stories, Cheryl seeks to explore the nature of being human. Cheryl is known for her pinch coil technique, which gives her work a unique texture similar to that of wood shingles or scales.





ELEANOR GREER

Inspired by the built environment, artist Eleanor Greer's paintings reveal a landscape in constant flux. In this panoramic installation, Eleanor depicts scenes from San Diego's urban landscape and its shifts to accommodate housing demand and higher density zoning regulations. Her surrounding environment provides the impetus for drawings and photographs which become the lexicon used when composing a new painting. Eleanor's work colorfully illustrates the quiet development that reshapes communities and the disposable nature of architectural structures.

HIGH TECH MIDDLE CHULA VISTA

Inspired by the Humans of New York project, 7th grade students from High Tech High Middle School, captured over 200 portraits and interviews with San Diegans centered on investigating the idea of home. During the course of the school term, students engaged in a lesson around identity, community and belonging. Armed with new insight and with practiced skills in photography, students went out into the neighborhoods of San Diego to photograph and interview people. Participants ranged in age, gender, ethnicity, and were asked a series of questions including What does home mean to you? And, How has your home shaped who you are? This installation is a collective gallery of the responses, and of memories and stories on the subject of home, in all its many forms. It celebrates diversity and illustrates what we all share in common: our home, San Diego.





INGRID LEYVA

Residents of a transborder community have a unique third home between two nations: the bridges, walkways and roads that make up the path from one country to another. Artist Ingrid Leyva's portraits in Mexican Shoppers depict the consistent flow of people who cross the El Paso/Cd. Juarez and San Ysidro/Tijuana borders to go shopping or return home from shopping trips in the United States. For Ingrid, this collective portrait creates a sense of belonging in a community that blends the culture of two different countries.

JANE BRUCKNER

LOST by artist Jane Brucker features everyday objects that we often lose--buttons, keys, puzzle pieces, and more--which comes together as a thoughtful representation of the recurring experience of loss throughout our lives. Each bronze, white bronze, and brass lost-wax cast metal featured here represents a small and unique item. These intimate groupings of tiny artworks evoke thoughts about loss throughout life—from baby teeth to relationships—and prompt us to consider what we leave behind when we move to a new home.





JUDITH CHRISTENSEN

For artist Judith Christensen, a home is both a physical object and a backdrop for the complexities of everyday life. Her work features miniature houses and the furniture inside these structures serve as metaphors of our life stories. Because these stories are continually "under construction" throughout our individual lives, the images within this work include maps, construction drawings, dictionaries, children's books and more. This illustrates the directions, definitions, moral lessons and other means we commonly use to navigate the obstacles we encounter when finding our place in the world. The interaction of memory, experience, place and language is the central theme that brings Judith's work together.

KATIE RUIZ

Xicana artist Katie Ruiz combines the inspiration from her heritage with modern themes in her mixed-media installation. With a deep interest in and knowledge of Latin American textiles and symbols, she employs a variety of techniques in her sculptures. Her incorporation of yarn comes from her experience learning to weave, but Katie takes this beyond its traditional form by clumping and tying the yarn in loose, fragile ways. To create different textures, she adds found objects--shells, pajamas, a chair leg and more--to expand on the ways Latin American textiles are used in contemporary art.







9. TERMINAL 2 WEST | POST-SECURITY | GATE 28



KERIANNE QUICK

When we leave our homes, we often carry with us special things that remind us of where we are from, or the people and places we leave behind. We use objects to remember but also to provide moments of familiarity and comfort in a new place. Kerianne Quick's installation consists of 30 objects produced from 3D scans of personal artifacts belonging to San Diego residents. Each personal artifact was carried by someone who relocated to San Diego to make a new home. 3D printed in clear resin to create a blurry ghost version of the original, they appear as apparitions, fragments of low-resolution memories that tell a story about where the person came from. Collected over the past year from residents all over the city, these are objects of sentiment, longing, and comfort.

KLINE SWONGER

For this project, 117 San Diego residents were asked to collect dirt from where they live and write a short memory of a place they identify as home. The collected dirt from participants was cast into individual concrete doorknobs. Through the work, concepts of home, memory, and connection to place are explored, while inviting viewers to consider what home means to them. The installation is informed by images of neurons within the hippocampus, the location within the brain which processes our memories of place and home.

This work is displayed as part of the City of San Diego's Commission for Arts & Culture's SD Practice initiative that provides support for local artists and strategically expands the City's Civic Art Collection.



Banh Xeo ha Bet, I go Bet 3 chen nièce musi, 1 muin dan au, 1 lon nive oan to query chung low cho den, cach mia ting, but day low Bank m! cach lown whing! thit, tan, ga ich, gie, trước hết! thit heo đem đi Bánh xèo nho, tom cach cho nho, cu' thank o, thit go cach nho, tat ca sao chung

LYNN SUSHOLTZ

In every culture sharing food is a gesture of welcome, an offer of comfort, a sense of community. Lynn Susholtz's video installation, Grandmother's Kitchen is a visually rich compilation of film and images she has been collecting in San Diego since 2010. Envisioned as a visual poem, the video traces the diverse cultural composition of the San Diego region though the depiction of cooking, growing and sharing the many varieties of food presented. Graphics and text are used to identify the dishes and the region of the world from which the dish was transported to San Diego. Foods and the rituals surrounding meals have always been an expression of home, culture, and connection to others. Grandmother's Kitchen is a celebration of the borderless diversity of cultures that make up the San Diego region.

MARISOL RENDÓN & INGRAM OBER

Over a period of 15 years, married artists Marisol Rendón and Ingram Ober have found themselves continuously "fixing" their home. After two children and more than a dozen pets, this body of work emanated from the physicality of the house and the symbolism created around it. Ingram's work sits at the collision point between some of his favorite contemporary art influences: cast off materials from around the house and DIY home improvement. Marisol's work explores the space between hope and delusion through a geologic investigation of domestic and architectural materials, objects, and forms. As an artist couple they are constantly reminded of the fluid relationship between their efforts to shape the space which they inhabit and how the fabric of themselves and their family are in turn, shaped by their home.





MICHAEL CHANG

Using stacks of old media players, framed carpet-matted photos, shoes, and other personal objects, artist Michael Chang creates memory containers in each display case, encasing a set of his possessions used to construct his sense of heritage and home. As a second-generation Taiwanese-American, Michael's parent's immigration journey from Taiwan to Southern California shaped his relationship with what home is. For him, home exists as fragments of multiple places in space-time. Each of these different geographic locations makes up a part of his home.

NASSEM NAVAB

Iranian American artist Nassem Navab understands firsthand the immigrant's desire to attain order in a world where they often find themselves fleeing from chaos. Her installation reflects the steps her own mother would take to protect the furniture in their home from wear and tear, an apt metaphor for preserving the family's own safety and protection in a new, unfamiliar environment. The clear vinyl encapsulating each piece of furniture is meticulously hand sewn with gold thread. Nassem's work provides a powerful testimony of the often-difficult life that immigrants endure when creating a home away from home.





OUTSIDE THE LENS

In the last four decades, San Diego has become a hub for the resettlement of refugees fleeing wars and conflict around the world, from Vietnam to Somalia to Iraq. Working in collaboration with artist Jana McBeath, students from the San Diego Refugee Tutoring program, an organization whose mission is to achieve social justice through educational access for refugee students in the nieghborhood of City Heights, created self-portraits using medium format film cameras. Each portrait session begins with a dialogue between student and teacher about hte composition and tone of the image. The students are equipped with the technical and artistic skills neccessary to speak their own truth. Each portrait represents the face of a wider story -- the narrative of their journey, family, resilience, defiance, and joy.

Outside the Lens' mission is to empower youth of use photography, filmmaking, and digital media to create change within themselves, their communities, and their world.



SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARTS PROGRAM

The Arts Program at SAN infuses the airport with light, levity, comfort and memorable experiences. The program surprises and delights travelers with arts of the highest caliber, and showcases the region's rich cultural community. Bringing texture and depth to the airport environment, the program involves artists in the planning and design of the airport.

Whether you're making your way to your gate or collecting your luggage, take a moment to notice the art around you — it was designed with you in mind.

For more info visit: arts.san.org



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TEMPORARY EXHIBITIONS



