

An abstract background composed of various shades of blue, ranging from deep navy to bright cyan. The surface is textured with visible brushstrokes, some of which are thick and impasto. A paintbrush with a black handle and a white ferrule is positioned vertically in the center, its bristles pointing upwards. To the right, a portion of a paint palette is visible, showing several compartments with different shades of blue paint. The overall composition is artistic and evocative, suggesting a creative process.

Los Angeles

Through the Eyes of Artists

Los Angeles

Through the Eyes of Artists

A poster series to enrich the transit rider's journey



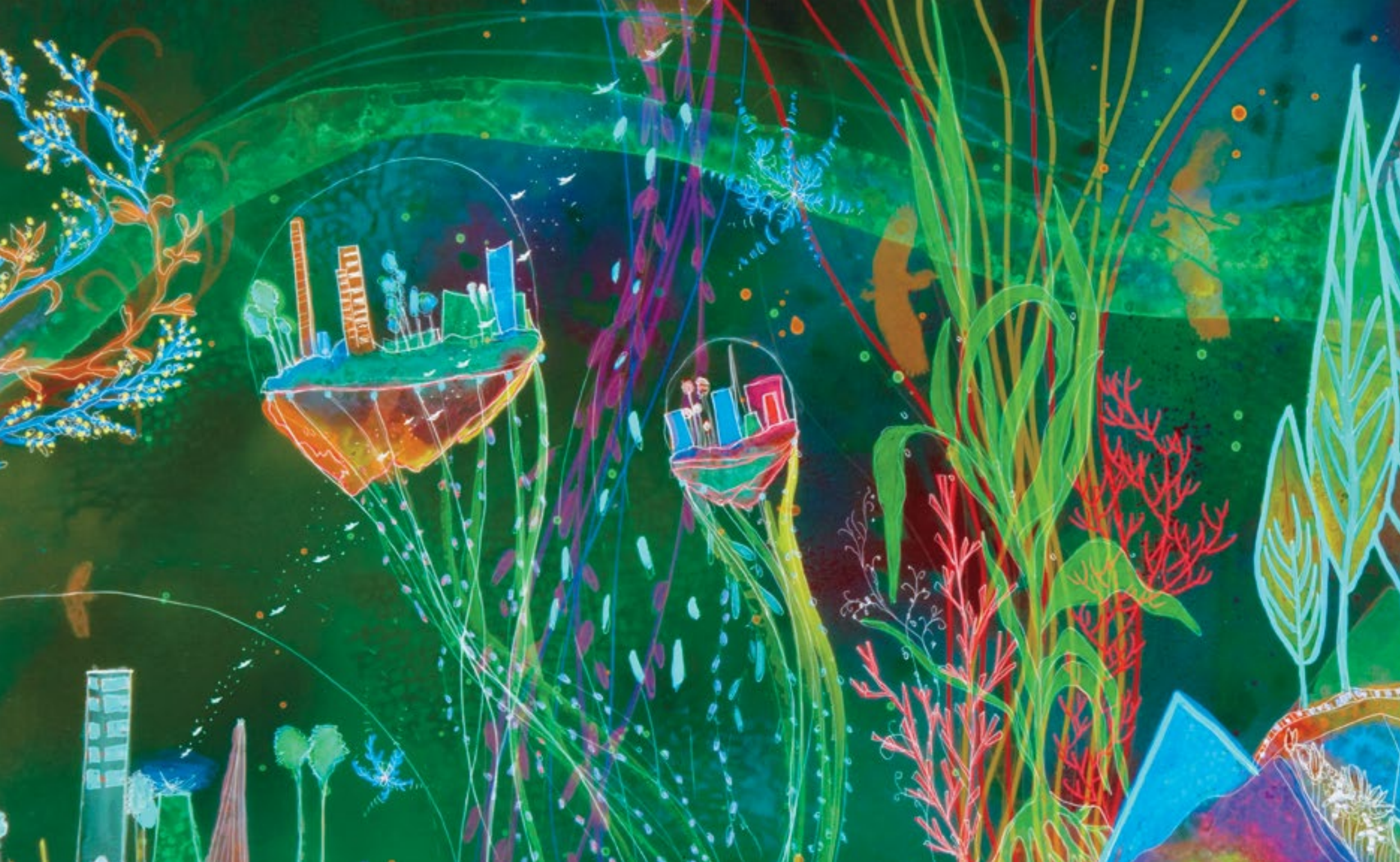
Metro[®]



Posters on view inside a Metro bus



Poster on view inside a Metro rail car



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Introduction

Mastering a city is deeply personal business.

When we claim a new place, our early travels often focus on expediency—the straightest line from A to B. Then come shortcuts: that backpocket magic that catapults you to expert. Along with those secret pass-throughs, you commit bus routes and connectors to memory, recitable as verse. All those passageways? Now part of you.

There is an art to moving meaningfully through space, to knowing your home like the lines within the palm of your hands. But to really know a landscape, its nuances and hidden identities, is to also glimpse it through the lenses of others—new routes, altered perspectives. Sometimes a detour isn't an inconvenience, it's a gift, an opportunity to broaden perspective.

Stories feed our curiosity about place and help us ask better questions about who we are and where we're going. Like those conversations we chance upon while enroute, public art also communicates an essential layer of the story of place, and makes these journeys lively and vivid.

When I pause at a stop—between here and there—I absorb L.A.'s possibilities: the photographs, paintings or assemblages that evoke this place I call home. They are windows onto the familiar and yet unexplored: the stands of palms and stretch of San Gabriels demarking Azusa, tombstone gatherings of long-gone elders at the cemeteries of East L.A., the amber light of Echo Park, the ghost vibrations of jazz, drums and poetry circling Leimert Park.

These artists' visual stories—like those swapped with seatmates—add depth to the region. We Angelenos become richer with the varied perspectives we hold within us, the stories we pass on to others at the next destination, about the past and the present, as we cut trails into the future.

Lynell George is a journalist, essayist, wanderer and Metro rider.



Preface

Covering 4,083 square miles and encompassing 88 individual cities and numerous unincorporated neighborhoods, Los Angeles is the most populous and ethnically diverse county in the United States, with one of the largest transit systems in the country. Each day, over 1.3 million residents and visitors board Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) buses and trains as they crisscross the region on their various travels.

LA is also recognized as one of the world's most important creative capitals and is home to an incredible range of remarkably talented artists. Metro has been at the forefront of interweaving art and transit through an array of innovative arts and cultural programs, transforming quotidian commutes into pleasurable, provocative journeys.

Through the Eyes of Artists is one of these programs and was initiated in 2003 to creatively celebrate the many cities and neighborhoods Metro serves from the unique perspectives of artists. In the tradition of colorful travel destination posters, Metro Art

commissions artists to capture the magic of these wonderfully varied places. Their artworks are then translated into elegant poster designs and displayed inside a fleet of more than 2,500 buses and trains, thereby introducing riders to other transit accessible neighborhoods throughout the far-flung county.

Over the past 15 years, it has been our honor to bring the work of over 40 outstanding local artists to our bus and rail riders through this award-winning program. We are deeply grateful to the artists we have commissioned to date and eagerly await the opportunity to share even more LA communities through the eyes of artists. In the meantime, we invite you to take a ride—and a unique visual exploration—into our vast, vivid county.

Maya Emsden is Metro's Deputy Executive Officer of Arts & Design.



Journeys: LA Communities Through the Eyes of Artists, an exhibition on view from 2017-2018 in Union Station's Passageway Gallery.



Clockwise from top left: Artists Kajsa Sjodin, Sam Pace, Alexis Disselkoen and Elliott Pinkney at neighborhood poster signing events.

ALHAMBRA

“Representations of Alhambra’s history are made in my artwork as well as an attempt to visually bridge historical references with contemporary scenes and attitudes.”

Phung Huynh



Alhambra
Acrylic on paper



ALHAMBRA

Alhambra was the first city in California with an iron pipe irrigation system. The pipes frame the cultural icons and symbols of the city, including its founder, B.D. Wilson, and depict the community's diversity, commerce and history.

Phung Huynh (b. 1977, Vietnam) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Art Center College of Design and Master of Fine Arts from New York University. She has taught art at Los Angeles Valley College. Rooted in cross-cultural exchanges, her work investigates identity through the use of non-Western subject matter and an American pop-culture sensibility. Huynh's paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States.

AZUSA

“Calling itself the Canyon City, Azusa serves as the gateway to the San Gabriel Mountains. Clothed in late afternoon sunshine, majestic old palm trees line Azusa Avenue creating a dramatic entrance, rather like a fanfare announcing the abrupt transition from city to wilderness.”

Mary Ann Ohmit



Azusa
Oil on paper



AZUSA

Ohmit's painterly composition captures the natural beauty of the rows of mature palm trees flanking Azusa Avenue as it leads into the San Gabriel Mountains, marking the change from the Southern California desert to the rugged mountain terrain.

Mary Ann Ohmit earned a Bachelor of Arts from St. Cloud University in Minnesota and taught art at Azusa High School for many years. Her landscape paintings have been exhibited in several galleries in California and Minnesota. Ohmit was a member of Oil Painters of America and Women Artists of the West.

BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK

“My artwork imagines a Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook that is blooming with life through hyperbolic drawings of oversized native plants and animals, surrounded by a city and draped on both sides with an expansive view. I wanted to emphasize the uniqueness of the Overlook as an “ecological island” in the Culver City neighborhood.”

Michael C. Hsiung



Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
Digital artwork



BALDWIN HILLS SCENIC OVERLOOK

This cityscape celebrates a natural refuge known for expansive vistas which draw native wildlife and people alike.

Michael C. Hsiung (b. 1976, Los Angeles) was raised in the San Fernando Valley, where exposure to skateboarding, heavy metal and Dungeons & Dragons fueled his imagination. He is a self-taught artist and illustrator known for his portly, bearded hybrid creatures and signature line-drawn style. Hsiung was born to Chinese-Taiwanese immigrants and studied English literature at San Jose State University. His humorous illustrations have appeared in numerous zines and as tattoos, and his paintings and works on paper have been exhibited throughout Los Angeles and in New York.

CHATSWORTH

“I really want to give a sense of the still very open landscape of this part of the valley. The classic car culture out here is pretty big and it helps to show the main thoroughfare through town: Topanga Canyon Blvd. Stoney Point/Rocky Peak is also an iconic feature of the landscape.”

Danny Heller



Chatsworth
Paint on canvas



CHATS WORTH

Stoney Point, the area’s distinctive natural landmark is meticulously rendered amidst characteristic hills, sky and trees. References are also made to the equestrian culture enjoyed by the community and to the classic car enthusiasts who love the wide open road.

Danny Heller (b. 1982, Northridge, California) earned a Bachelor of Arts in painting from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His photorealist paintings chronicle modern American imagery with an emphasis on midcentury architecture and car culture in Southern California. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is held in the collections of the Colas Foundation, Long Beach Museum of Art and Palm Springs Art Museum.

CHINATOWN

“I think that for artists today it’s not enough to just show work on a gallery level, but that we have something greater to offer. With this approach, I feel I would not just increase the visibility of my work, but also the role of the artist as an active participant of the shaping and imagining of the future.”

John Trevino



Chinatown
Mixed media



CHINATOWN

Trevino adapts the Monkey King character from Chinese folklore to symbolically bridge the gap between Chinatown's tradition, commerce and its emerging pop culture.

John Trevino (b. 1972, Long Beach, California) earned a Bachelor of Arts in black studies and art from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Master of Fine Arts in painting from Howard University. He has taught art at Howard University. His figurative paintings, photographs and mixed-media works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Los Angeles and Washington, DC. His public murals can also be found in those cities.

CLAREMONT

“Every town is unique; it has specific characteristics, a visual identity. It was my goal to capture the identity of Claremont. It may not include everything that is meaningful, or the most easily identifiable places in the village, but as a whole it captures the tone, spirit and colors of the environment. The streetscape was assembled using images of private homes, public buildings and businesses within the boundaries of Claremont.”

Jessica Polzin McCoy



Claremont
Watercolor on paper



CLAREMONT

Delicate watercolors depict a college town that flourishes within the creative environment of the Claremont University Consortium, and opens an informal invitation to visit a backyard, ride a bike, step into a shady grove and attend school.

Jessica Polzin McCoy (b. 1977, Zumbrota, Minnesota) earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in fine art from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is an assistant professor of art at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. Polzin McCoy's paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States, and she is the recipient of an Ohio Arts Council Individual Artist Grant and a University of Wisconsin–Madison Vilas Fellowship.

COMPTON

“Upon visiting the City of Compton, you soon become aware of the energy and excitement found here. The impression is often quite different from how the city is depicted in the media and by non-residents.”

Elliott Pinkney



Compton
Mixed media collage



COMPTON

The boldly colorful collage captures the city's energy and contains well known community images, events and locales. Less well known features, such as the Compton Creek Horse Trail, Compton Airport, Olympic Memorial Park, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial and a skate park are also depicted.

Elliott Pinkney (b. 1934, Brunswick, Georgia) earned a Bachelor of Arts from Woodbury University. He works in a variety of media, including sculpture, printmaking and painting. He has an extensive exhibition record and has received numerous awards. Pinkney is best known for his colorful public murals painted on buildings throughout Southern California in Compton, Los Angeles and Long Beach.

EAGLE ROCK

“Over a number of days I collected nearly 200 unique street sign images. Over the grid of diverse street signs are images of the shadow of the Eagle Rock. Can you find them all? The streets are stand-ins for the diverse citizens, schools, restaurants, markets, cafes and modes of transportation. A contemporary look at the neighborhood yields quite different results than a look at the neighborhood of the past.”

Alexis Disselkoen



Eagle Rock
Digital media



EAGLE ROCK

A holistic presentation of street signs in Eagle Rock recognizes this urban village's small town persona. Eagle-like silhouettes survey the history of the community.

Alexis Disselkoen (b. 1981, Arcadia, California) uses performance, photography, textiles and text to explore identity and her experience of living in Los Angeles. She earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine, and has taught at the University of Southern California's Roski School of Art and Design. Among a number of performative group exhibitions throughout Los Angeles, Disselkoen has participated in REDCAT's Studio Series, Human Resources' Eternal Telethon: 55+ and Chinatown's Perform! Now!. Her 2016 solo exhibition at Syracuse University's La Casita Cultural Center included an interactive performance and site-specific installation.

EAST LA

“There are at least six cemeteries in East LA...I think of a cemetery as a museum, a park and a garden. There you will find beautiful art pieces in the open air, palms and flowers.”

Artemio Rodriguez



East LA
Linocut print



EAST LA

Rodriguez illustrates how East Los Angeles cemeteries honor its diverse history and reflect the community's sense of family and soul.

Artemio Rodriguez (b. 1972, Tacámbaro, Mexico) studied agronomy at the Universidad Autónoma Chapingo before apprenticing with master printmaker Juan Pascoe in Mexico. His prints have been exhibited in galleries throughout the United States and Mexico, and are in the collections of the Hammer Museum, the Laguna Art Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Phoenix Art Museum, the San Francisco Mexican Museum and the Seattle Art Museum, to name a few. Rodriguez has also illustrated and published several limited-edition books. Interested in fostering community appreciation for printmaking, he founded La Mano Press in Los Angeles and El Huerto, Centro de Ecología y Artes in Tacámbaro, Mexico.

ECHO PARK

“There it was all laid out before me: the palm trees, Echo Park Lake, the boathouse, Rafa doing tai chi (like he did so many mornings) and breaking through the mist in the distance, the skyscrapers of downtown.”

Manny Cosentino



Echo Park
Oil on canvas



ECHO PARK

Cosentino depicts Echo Park as an idyllic setting for a wide range of activities and festivals close to downtown.

Manny Cosentino (b. 1958, New York, New York) is an artist and art educator. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles. His figurative and landscape paintings have been exhibited in galleries throughout Southern California. Cosentino has taught classes and workshops in classical painting and drawing techniques, as well as stained glass throughout the region at Barnsdall Art Center, Judson Studios, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles Mission College, Los Angeles Valley College, the Ryman Arts program for young artists, UCLA Extension and Ventura College.

EL MONTE

“What began as a mere oasis along the Santa Fe Trail became the final destination for many immigrants impressed by the undeniable qualities of El Monte. These groups settled in nine separate “barrios” which, over the years, built strong ties with one another, ties that eventually led to collective action in 1933 for improved treatment and wages.”

Lois Keller



El Monte
Acrylic on paper



EL MONTE

Sculptural olive trees align the streets along Valley Mall, the city’s bustling shopping district, and reference the original barrios. Flower and strawberry fields lie in the shade of the San Gabriel Mountains.

Lois Keller (b. 1968, Green Bay, Wisconsin) earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She has worked as a scenic artist, muralist, architectural restoration painter and community artist. She continues her artistic practice in Studio City, California, while caring for her children and mother with Alzheimer’s, and also working as an advocate for the disease. Her paintings and drawings have been included in exhibitions throughout the United States.

EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES

“I have found the El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument to be an educational portal for young people, including my own children. I have painted a picture that takes them back in time, educating and informing them of the history that gave birth to our city’s name, “La Reina de Los Angeles.” This painting serves as an introduction to the importance of its history and as an invitation across generations to take pride in the vibrant heritage that has led us to this place today.”

Fabian Debora



El Pueblo de Los Angeles
Acrylic on paper



EL PUEBLO DE LOS ANGELES

The bold gaze of young Angelenos at the site of the original pueblo of Los Angeles offers a reminder that the city's vibrant heritage lives on in future generations.

Fabian Debora (b. 1975, El Paso, Texas) is a painter and muralist raised in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood. Early in his career, he interned with LA artist Wayne Healy and created murals with East Los Streetscapers. Today, his paintings are featured in exhibitions and on exterior walls throughout the Los Angeles region. In addition to his art practice, Debora is the director of substance abuse services at Homeboy Industries, art director for the Latino Producers Action Network and program manager for LA Classe Art Academy. He also teaches art at juvenile camps and state prisons in Los Angeles and San Bernardino counties through the Alliance for California Traditional Arts and Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network, where he is a Governing Council member.

EXPO PARK/USC

“I wanted to create an image for the Expo Park/USC poster that would draw on my personal experience with the neighborhood which I associated with notions of collective memory, history, romance, nostalgia and wonder. The iconography is based on archival photographs of public sculpture and romantic architecture on the USC campus, the ornithological collections/galleries at the Natural History Museum, and the iconic Rose Garden in Exposition Park.”

Stas Orlovski



Expo Park/USC
Paint on canvas



EXPO PARK/USC

Combining a dramatic indigo sky, romantic architecture, archival imagery and a dense landscape of roses, Orlovski's vision intertwines history and the natural world to depict a place both familiar and exotic, dreamed about and remembered.

Stas Orlovski (b. 1969, Kishinev, Moldova) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from York University, Bachelor of Education from the University of Toronto and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States and is included in several museum collections. Orlovski is the recipient of grants from the California Community Foundation, the Center for Cultural Innovation and Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs. He has been awarded residencies at the Corporation of Yaddo, Omi International Arts Center and Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture.

GARDENA

“In my painting, a woman is depicted working in this in-between space, this corridor of earth under the power lines that run between the urban structures on either side. Vegetation seems to simultaneously grow from the ground and from her own form: the plants are not only growing around her, the plants are growing because of her, because of her efforts to sustain and cultivate this space.”

Jonathan Anderson



Gardena
Paint on plywood



GARDENA

Beneath suspended power lines, a vibrant green garden blooms around a central figure working the land, calling to mind the many farms and nurseries that contributed to the development and naming of the city.

Jonathan Anderson (b. 1977, Denver) earned a Bachelor of Science in studio art from Biola University and Master of Fine Arts from California State University, Long Beach. His paintings have been exhibited throughout the United States. He is an associate professor of art at Biola University and has been a visiting artist at several universities. Anderson is the recipient of a number of fellowships and awards. He participated in the R5 Seminar in South Africa and an artist residency at Whale & Star Studio in Miami.

GLENDALE

“I wanted to capture the city’s historical value and cultural diversity. All of these elements represent the multicultural and thriving city that Glendale is today.”

Edith Waddell



Glendale
Watercolor and ink on paper



Glendale

Through the eyes of artist
Edith Waddell

Local heritage, from the Brand Library to the Doctor's House Museum, is artfully interlaced with elements of the city's rich culture and vibrant history.

Visit metro.net and Go Metro to Glendale.



GLENDALÉ

Local heritage, from the Brand Library to the Doctor's House Museum, is artfully interlaced with elements of the city's rich culture and vibrant history.

Edith Waddell (b. 1980, Arequipa, Peru) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design. Her acrylic paintings and mixed-media works have been exhibited in galleries throughout Los Angeles. Also an illustrator and printmaker, she self-published a children's book titled The Freaky Circus Book. Waddell is the recipient of a Buchalter Memorial Scholarship and Gay Johnson Award.

GRIFFITH PARK

“What especially attracts me to the early posters of the 20s, 30s and 40s is the simplicity and minimal thinking in order to reach an audience of a busy modern world. The colors were often very bold and screamed ‘Look at me, forget those other guys, I am very simple, LOOK AT ME’.”

Bob Zoell



Griffith Park
Digital media



GRIFFITH PARK

Zoell depicts Griffith Park as a whimsical, fun environment boasting many attractions. Covering 4,000 acres, it's the largest municipal park in the United States.

Bob Zoell (b. 1940, Regina, Canada) is a prolific artist whose paintings and prints have been included in exhibitions throughout the world. He has served as a visiting faculty member at the University of California, Los Angeles, and has been the recipient of grants from the Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. Zoell has authored and illustrated many children's books and is a regular contributor to The New Yorker magazine. He has completed a number of public commissions throughout the United States, including artwork for the Music City Center in Nashville and the San Francisco International Airport.

HERMOSA BEACH

“I wanted this painting to look fun, since the beach is definitely that. It is loosely based on vintage postcards and features old fashioned bathing costumes, a historic map and made up postage stamps.”

Cynthia Evans



Hermosa Beach
Paint on board



HERMOSA BEACH

In the style of vintage postcards, the artist celebrates the city's centennial and 100 years of beach culture by commemorating its groundbreaking lifeguard service, iconic pier and museum, a woman surfing champion from the 1930s and the quirky enjoyment of surf and sand culture.

Cynthia Evans (b. 1951, White Plains, New York) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of La Verne and Master of Fine Arts from Claremont Graduate University. Her mixed-media paintings have been exhibited in galleries throughout the West Coast. She has participated in artist residencies and worked as a painter for Walt Disney Imagineering.

HIGHLAND PARK

“Night has fallen and lights from traffic, houses and businesses glow in the dark. From the reddened horizon, the sky deepens upward into night and onto that night is etched the stars and constellations of the ancient peoples.”

Raoul de la Sota



Highland Park
Acrylic on wood panel



HIGHLAND PARK

Dusk shrouds Highland Park homes and LA freeways while downtown's skyscrapers are silhouetted against a fiery twilight.

Raoul de la Sota (b. 1937, Los Angeles) earned a bachelor's degree from Los Angeles City College and master's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is a professor emeritus of Mexican American history at Los Angeles City College. Often referencing Mesoamerican cosmological concepts and mythology, de la Sota's paintings are inspired by the artist's extensive travels throughout the Southwestern United States and Latin America. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States, Latin America, Africa and Europe at venues that include the Hammer Museum and Laguna Art Museum.

INGLEWOOD

“I see an excitement in the city that is rooted in the circle: the donut, a camera lens, the eclipse, the racetrack and the airplane’s flight path.”

Wakana Kimura



Inglewood
Mixed media on paper



INGLEWOOD

A kaleidoscope of frenetic activity bursts over the racetrack, airport and beach. The action is amplified through a variety of color, pattern and media, as the artist compiled images of the neighborhood's defining characteristics and landmarks.

Wakana Kimura (b. Shizuoka Japan) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Tokyo University of the Arts and Master of Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design. Her works have been exhibited in the United States and Japan.

IRWINDALE

“I witnessed the San Gabriel River as it burst from mountains to the industrial plains of Irwindale today. I immediately thought of how vital this site must have been for the nearby native settlement, Azuksagna, home of the local Tongva/Gabrielino indigenous people. My resulting panoramic drawing aims to not only draw attention to the geological beauty of the site, but also alludes to the panorama of history and the various inhabitants who lived on this land up until today.”

William Acedo



Irwindale
Colored pencil on paper



IRWINDALE

Early Spanish settlers called the area Jardin de las Rocas (Garden of Rocks), and this golden contemporary landscape, featuring industry, a popular bicycle path and park, captures the City of Irwindale's heritage in charming detail.

William Acedo (b. 1965, Guadalajara, Mexico) moved to downtown Los Angeles in 1987. The city's architecture, fauna, urban life and history have been a source of inspiration for the artist's woodcut and linocut prints. His work has been included in exhibitions throughout the United States and was the subject of a solo exhibition at District Gallery in 2012. Acedo's prints are held in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Museo del Barrio in New York, National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago, San Antonio Museum of Art, and Smithsonian Institution, among others. He is a member of the Artist Roundtable at Self Help Graphics & Art, where he has participated in numerous printmaking and papier-mâché workshops. He has also created murals in Los Angeles, Santa Cruz and Berlin.

KOREATOWN

“I wanted to recreate the feeling of enchantment upon encountering the density of signage for the multitude of stores and restaurants as you experience the streets in Koreatown; like a mini Korea, a trip back to my native country. The image is read from right to left as one would read traditional Korean books and transforms from daytime to nighttime. This collage creates the sense of an intense, vibrant and complex neighborhood that dynamically changes, grows and is there to be explored.”

Kyungmi Shin



Koreatown
Photo collage



KOREATOWN

Spanning from evening to daytime, the photographic collage captures Koreatown's bustling commerce and ever shifting activities while juxtaposing old and new buildings, wealth and want, in a complex and multilayered cityscape.

Kyungmi Shin (b. 1963, Buson, Korea) earned a Bachelor of Science from San Jose State University and Master of Fine Arts with an emphasis in sculpture and installation art from the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught at several institutions in Southern California and her artwork has been included in exhibitions internationally. She is the recipient of grants from the California Community Foundation, the Durfee Foundation, Los Angeles' Department of Cultural Affairs and Pasadena's Cultural Affairs Division. She has completed a number of public commissions throughout Los Angeles with Shin Gray Studio, including artworks for Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook, Hope Street Family Center, La Fayette Park Gymnasium and Community Center, the Los Angeles International Airport and Midtown Crossing Shopping Center. Her public artworks can also be found in Culver City, California; Norfolk, Virginia; Redondo Beach, California; and Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

“I chose to depict a time of day that will stay in line with my style of work, as well as depict the range of foliage and color of the city, with colorful lens flares and a pastel colored sunset peeking through the silhouettes of the landscape.”

Brooks Salzwedel



La Cañada Flintridge
Mixed media on acrylic



LA CAÑADA FLINTRIDGE

Nestled among misty summits like a thought in a dream, this vision of the mountain community evokes subtle and changing impressions and complexities.

Brooks Salzwedel (b. 1978, Long Beach, California) renders atmospheric, layered landscapes that are simultaneously familiar and otherworldly. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Art Center College of Design and is the recipient of artist residencies at Denali National Park in Alaska and White River National Forest in Colorado. Salzwedel's mixed-media drawings have been exhibited in New York, Hawaii, the United Kingdom and throughout Southern California. His work has also been featured in a number of publications, including ArtWeek, Juxtapoz Magazine, New American Paintings and The New York Times.

LA COUNTY ARBORETUM

“I was inspired by many non-native species co-existing in harmony, much like the kaleidoscope of people from across the globe who live in Los Angeles County. I manipulated photographs I took of peacocks, aloe blooms and historic railroad tracks at the Arboretum into a multi-layered form resembling a rising sun emerging from the horizon. Aligned in perfect symmetry, the composition is a balance of animal, vegetable and mineral (peacock, aloe and iron) coming together to celebrate the LA County Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.”

Karen Hochman Brown



LA County Arboretum
Digital photo collage



LA COUNTY ARBORETUM

Brilliant green, blue, iron and orange converge in a kaleidoscopic photomontage, recalling the famed peacocks, historical rail tracks and blossoming aloe that one might encounter at the Arboretum.

Karen Hochman Brown (b. 1958, Santa Barbara, California) creates mandala-like photo collages that digitally fuse mathematical precision and aesthetic beauty. She earned a bachelor's degree in art from Pitzer College and a post-graduate teaching credential from California College of the Arts. She continued her studies in graphic design at Art Center College of Design and the University of California, Los Angeles, and designed and taught a high school course marrying geometry and art. Hochman Brown's work has been included in exhibitions throughout LA County and New York. She is the recipient of several awards, including an artist residency from the LA County Arboretum Library.

LAKEWOOD

“I have chosen to illustrate the area’s sense of family life and community. The image depicts families and neighbors at a backyard party/BBQ, against the backdrop of a 1950s-style suburban home. I hope this brings to mind a lightness of spirit and motion within the story while providing visual interest outside the narrative.”

Aaron Rivera



Lakewood
Acrylic on watercolor paper



Lakewood

Through the eyes of artist
Aaron Rivera

A glimpse of suburban life brings
together family and neighbors at
a backyard barbeque in Rivera's
colorful tableau.

Visit metro.net and Go Metro to Lakewood.



LAKEWOOD

A glimpse of suburban life brings together family and neighbors at a backyard barbeque in Rivera's colorful tableau.

Aaron Rivera (b. 1978, Chicago) earned a Bachelor of Arts in industrial arts from San Francisco State University. He has a diverse artistic background, including having worked as a muralist, illustrator, storyboard artist, scenic painter and puppet fabricator. Rivera's mixed-media paintings have been exhibited in a number of Los Angeles galleries and at Art Basel, Miami Beach.

LEIMERT PARK

“I wanted to capture this unique area of Los Angeles...it’s a mecca for African American culture, and I feel that it’s time to share it with the rest the world. This project is one way that I can help accomplish this goal.”

Sam Pace



Leimert Park
Acrylic on chip board



LEIMERT PARK

Pace visually evokes one of Los Angeles' best-kept secrets. Where else can you experience jazz, hip-hop, blues, poetry, artworks and great soul food, then chill out in the park to play chess or dominoes?

Sam Pace (b. 1952, Los Angeles) is an artist, graphic designer and illustrator. His mixed-media paintings inspired by jazz and blues have been exhibited in many galleries and community centers throughout Los Angeles, including the Watts Towers Arts Center. His commissions include poster illustrations for events such as the Vancouver Wine and Jazz Festival and the Playboy Jazz Festival.

LITTLE TOKYO

“The washi paper is vibrant and detailed with various printed designs that add depth and color to the piece, and also serve as a metaphor for the diverse, colorful history of the neighborhood. I incorporated a wood panel as my backdrop to reference Japanese woodblock prints. The swirling lines and natural blemishes in wood made me think of Asian landscape painting as well.”

Shizu Saldamando



Little Tokyo
Mixed media on plywood



LITTLE TOKYO

The iconic red Yagura Tower and blue tile roofs of Japanese Village Plaza emerge from a vivid collage of washi paper and colored pencil set against a swirling wood grain surface to create a contemporary neighborhood landscape.

Shizu Saldamando (b. 1978, San Francisco) holds a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Master of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally in galleries and museums, including the Japanese American National Museum, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Museo del Barrio, the Setagaya Art Museum, the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, and the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, among others. She is the recipient of a California Community Foundation Fellowship for Emerging Visual Artists.

LONG BEACH

“My artwork shows the diversity of local ecologies while evoking the beauty of Long Beach in a playful, fantastical, underwater cosmic dreamscape.”

Christine Nguyen



Long Beach
Photo based drawing



LONG BEACH

An imaginary, underwater dreamscape playfully intertwines jellyfish, sea vegetation and caves with iconic Long Beach landmarks, including the Astronaut Islands, El Dorado Nature Center and The Walter Pyramid at California State University, Long Beach.

Christine Nguyen (b. 1977, Mountain View, California) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from California State University, Long Beach, and a Master of Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine. In addition to being included in many group exhibitions throughout the United States, Nguyen's works on paper have been featured in several solo exhibitions throughout Southern California and in Asia. Among her accolades are a Durfee grant and Visions from the New California Award. She has participated in residencies at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Montalvo Art Center and Tamarind Institute. Her other public commissions in California include artworks for Santa Clarita's Fire Station 132, the Malibu Library and Ontario Airport.

MALIBU BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

“This drawing is my attempt at giving shape to the joy and wonder I felt while walking through the park. I wanted to capture the beauty of the particular harmony of experiences and existences I found there. Through the filter of my mind and the lines of my art, I tried to give shape to that moment and to share with viewers a piece of the truth that I experienced.”

Miki Yokoyama



Malibu Bluffs Open Space
Ink on canvas



MALIBU BLUFFS OPEN SPACE

The sublime experience of a wild, open space where mountains meet the sea and humans harmonize with nature is captured in this intricate line drawing.

Miki Yokoyama (b. 1979, Fukushima, Japan) is a self-taught multidisciplinary artist whose intricate line drawings envelop canvases, walls, objects and bodies. Her black and white renderings explore her vision of life as interconnected, transient and cyclical. Yokoyama is a member of BOTART International and the Los Angeles Art Association, and her work has been featured in exhibitions throughout Southern California and in Japan.

MIRACLE MILE

“In my photographic work I juxtapose images of old and new cities reflecting a sense of nostalgia for the past contrasted with wonder about the future. Through a bombardment of disparate images, my pieces celebrate the complexity and unpredictability of city spaces.”

Jody Zellen



Miracle Mile
Epson photo print



MIRACLE MILE

Zellen contrasts the formality and grace of the Wiltern Theatre's Art Deco architecture against the dizzying flurry of business along Wilshire Boulevard.

Jody Zellen (b. 1961, Boston) earned a Bachelor of Arts from Wesleyan University and Master of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts. Her photographs, artist's books, interactive installations and Internet-based works explore social and aesthetic aspects of the urban environment. Zellen is the recipient of a number of awards, including grants from the California Community Foundation and the Center for Cultural Innovation. She has completed permanent public artworks throughout the region for the City of Santa Monica, the UCLA Santa Monica Hospital, the West Valley Area Police Station in Reseda, the Capital Complex in Sacramento and the Pan Pacific Recreation Center in Los Angeles.

MONTEREY PARK

“Each morning, it is a common sight to see people gathering at the city’s parks to practice Tai-chi, so I used the central figure and a red and gold Chinese motif to symbolize the cultural image of the first city in the continental U.S. to have an Asian descent majority population. The historic landmarks of Heritage Park, Garvey Ranch Observatory and East LA College surround this portrait.”

Emi Motokawa



Monterey Park
Acrylic on paper



MONTEREY PARK

Fresh vivacity merges with tradition in the form of an action heroine within this playfully interpreted scene. Multi-ethnic motifs layer with city landmarks to convey the diversity of this community.

Emi Motokawa (b. 1972, Tokyo) moved to Los Angeles at the age of seven and was raised in Monterey Park. She was first inspired to fuse her Buddhist practice with visual art in 1995 while studying at a seminary in Tokyo. Her paintings and crocheted sculptures are influenced by her Japanese heritage, Buddhism and life in Los Angeles. The Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery and William Grant Still Arts Center are among a number of local art institutions and galleries that have featured her work.

NOHO ARTS DISTRICT

“The pirate shown in my poster represents musicals such as *The Pirates of Penzance*, as well as children’s features performed in the Joy Theatre at the Raven Playhouse in North Hollywood. The cabaret actor represents shows featured at the Whitefire and El Portal Theatres.”

Karl Abramovic



NoHo Arts District
Oil paint on wood panel



NOHO ARTS DISTRICT

Inspired by the atmosphere of the NoHo theatre district, Abramovic has depicted the comedy, musical and cabaret as featured at the Whitefire, El Portal, Secret Rose and Raven Theatres.

Karl Abramovic (b. 1960, Portland, Oregon) is a muralist, illustrator and art educator. He is the program director for the Studio Program, which provides art education and public art projects for Portland youth. His work has been published in Idler Magazine, NoHo News, San Fernando Business Journal and the Los Angeles Times. His other public art commissions include murals in Los Angeles and Oregon.

PASADENA

“The real joy as an artist is to create work filled with delight, work that is more calm, more serene, more alive, more playful, more energized, more focused, more directed and more life filled for the time that we’re here.”

Walter Askin



Pasadena
Gouache and Xerox on paper



PASADENA

Renowned for fostering parades and festivals, Pasadena is represented by Askin in a whimsical procession of playful characters marching through his hometown.

Walter Askin (b. 1929, Pasadena, California) attended the Ruskin School of Art at the University of Oxford before earning a bachelor's degree and master's degree in art from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a professor emeritus at California State University, Los Angeles, where he received an Outstanding Professor Award. Askin's paintings, sculptures and prints are held in a number of museum collections and have been exhibited throughout the world, including in solo exhibitions at the De Young Museum, Vienna Künstlerhaus, La Jolla Museum of Art and Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

PICO RIVERA

“Whittier Boulevard, Route 72, is one of the main vehicular arteries running through the City of Pico Rivera. I have fond boyhood memories of eating, shopping and going to the movies on the Boulevard.”

Ramon Ramirez



Pico Rivera
Colored pencil on paper



PICO RIVERA

Ramirez depicts Pico Rivera with palm trees in silhouette against a glowing sunset sky. A native of the area, the artist has fond memories of uncomplicated adventure, when the horizon was wide and anything was possible.

Ramon Ramirez (b. 1971, Los Angeles) earned a Bachelor of Arts in architecture, Master of Arts in studio painting and Master of Architecture from the University of California, Berkeley. He has taught architectural drawing and design at a number of colleges and universities, including East Los Angeles College and Woodbury University. His paintings and drawings have been exhibited at institutions throughout the United States and have been featured in several publications, including the book Contemporary Chicana and Chicano Artists.

POMONA

“This is a symmetrical design which contains elements from many interesting aspects of the city of Pomona. These include: the goddess Pomona herself, orange trees from a bygone era, low-riders from the many car shows, the Ferris wheel, horse racing and farm animals from the Fairplex, the antique and art colony arches, and the Fox Theater from downtown. The style of this piece is inspired by orange crate graphic labels.”

Sonia Romero



Pomona
Wood block print



POMONA

Romero pulls together a wide variety of cultural icons from the city's history, including the LA County Fair, Antique Row, the Arts Colony, the Wally Parks NHRA Motorsports Museum and the goddess Pomona herself.

Sonia Romero (b. 1980, Los Angeles) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design. She is a printmaker, painter and educator whose artwork has been exhibited throughout Los Angeles. Romero has been involved in community art outreach and has worked with youth through the HeArt Project, LA Commons, Los Angeles County High School for the Arts and Plaza de la Raza. Her other public artworks include commissions for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Los Angeles' former Community Redevelopment Agency.

SAN FERNANDO

“In 1797, the San Fernando Mission was founded—the 17th of the 21 missions built in California. My painting of the mission includes a small section of the garden, tiled roofs, exposed wooden beams and adobe walls.”

Mary Kay Wilson



San Fernando
Watercolor on paper



San Fernando

Through the eyes of artist
Mary Kay Wilson

While there is much to marvel in the 1797 Mission San Fernando, this watercolor invites you to experience a small corner of the garden, with its Roman arch, tiled roof, adobe walls and exposed wooden beams, all elements that remain architectural inspirations in Southern California today.

Visit metro.net and Go Metro to San Fernando.



SAN FERNANDO

While there is much to marvel at in the 1797 Mission San Fernando, this watercolor invites you to experience a small corner of the garden, with its Roman arch, tiled roof, adobe walls and exposed wooden beams—all elements that remain architectural inspirations in Southern California today.

Mary Kay Wilson (b. 1960, Glendale, California) earned a Bachelor of Arts in painting from Hampshire College. Her watercolor paintings have been included in a number of exhibitions regionally. She has participated in several public art projects, including Community of Angels in Los Angeles and Judy Chicago's Envisioning the Future mural in Pomona, California.

SAN PEDRO

“I want to express the warm Southern California lifestyle, playful and diverse climate, with all the different cultures connecting through community activities, traveling and creativity.”

Kajsa Sjodin



San Pedro
Mixed media on paper



SAN PEDRO

Celebrations of water and breeze wash over this image of the populous port city. The fluid grace of lines and shapes refreshingly contrast against the hard infrastructure of transportation.

Kaja Sjödin (b. 1977, Stockholm, Sweden) creates figurative drawings inspired by her past and present experiences. She works on paper in a variety of media—watercolor, ink, graphite and charcoal—from her studio at the Angel's Gate Cultural Center in San Pedro, California. Sjödin studied and has taught at the Art Students League of New York. Her works have been exhibited in her home country and locally.

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

“As a painter I have been exploring various points of view and the one I keep coming back to is the bird’s eye view. I am fascinated by the Los Angeles landscape, and see this city as a vast wide open dance of trees, buildings, waterways, roads, beaches and mountains. With a view from above, I can show all of this magic in my work and let the viewer explore.”

Eric Ernest Johnson



South Coast Botanic Garden
Acrylic on canvas



SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

In a whimsical bird's-eye view, the botanic garden is shown surrounded by waves amid the flourishing Palos Verdes Peninsula.

Eric Ernest Johnson (b. 1968, Los Angeles) is a poet, musician, video director, muralist and artist whose vibrant landscapes and geometric compositions often explore mankind's relationship with the earth. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in painting from the San Francisco Art Institute and has collaborated with fashion brands Libertine and Newbark. Johnson's work has appeared in a number of publications and has been exhibited in the United States, Korea, Scotland and Switzerland.

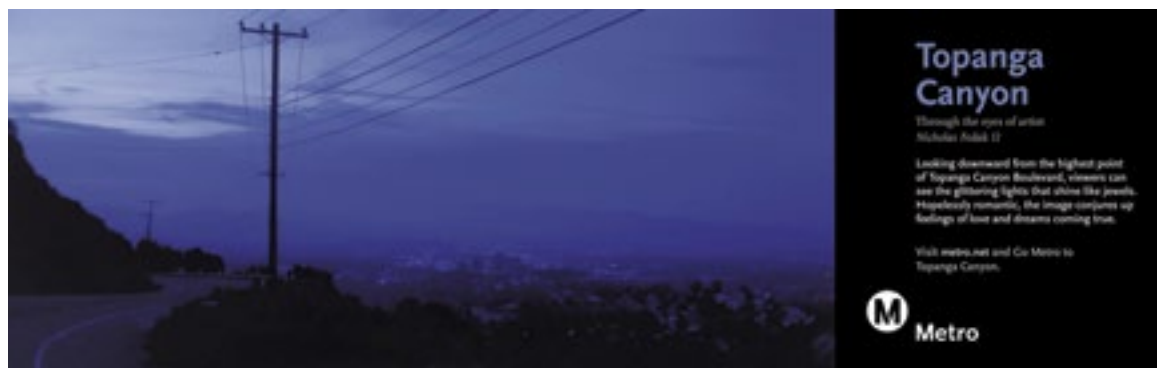
TOPANGA CANYON

“I have lived in the San Fernando Valley since 1978 and love it. I wanted to do something very dreamy. I thought of going on top of Topanga Canyon and creating an image that was ethereal. I shot it in the evening, at twilight, when nothing is clear, where something is like a memory and you can’t explain it in words.”

Nicholas Fedak II



Topanga Canyon
Photo print



TOPANGA CANYON

Looking downward from the highest point of Topanga Canyon Boulevard, viewers can see the glittering lights that shine like jewels. Hopelessly romantic, the image conjures up feelings of love and dreams coming true.

Nicholas Fedak II (b. 1953, Cleveland, Ohio) earned a Bachelor of Arts from California State University, Northridge, and a Master of Fine Arts from Otis College of Art and Design. He has taught art at East Los Angeles College; California State University, Northridge; McGroarty Arts Center; and Pierce College Extension, among others. Fedak is the recipient of a number of awards and public commissions. His photographs have been included in numerous exhibitions throughout the United States and featured in the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, The Photo Review and The Washington Post.

VAN NUYS

“My inspiration for the poster project was to capture small vignettes or ‘snap shots’ of different people around the corner of Victory and Van Nuys Boulevard. Urban environments and people are a part of my own personal work. I also have a love for comics and artists that use drawing as a journalistic medium. The overall design was to imply a sort of comic book page layout.”

Ronald J. Llanos



Van Nuys
Colored pencil on paper



VAN NUYS

Llanos depicts a series of San Fernando Valley characters amidst the commercial hub-bub of Victory Boulevard and Van Nuys Boulevard.

Ronald J. Llanos (b. Los Angeles) holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Art Center College of Design, where he is a faculty member of public programs. His figurative drawings and paintings documenting a number of Los Angeles neighborhoods have been featured in several magazines and in regional group exhibitions.

VENICE

“A Venice breeze beckons. Fresh off the ocean, it hints at possibilities or a surreal dream. Venice is a place, but it’s also a state of mind.”

Sarajo Frieden



Venice
Offset print



VENICE

Frieden's playful panorama captures the gamut of fun activities that characterize the canals, beach and boardwalks of this creative community.

Sarajo Frieden (b. Oakland, California) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles. Her work is influenced by the diverse communities of the California Pacific Rim where she grew up, and by her world travels. Frieden's paintings and collages have been exhibited in galleries throughout Los Angeles, New York, Melbourne and Rome. Her illustrations and award-winning designs grace books, film titles, CDs, packaging and textiles, to name a few. She has taught at Otis College of Art and Design and is the recipient of a Zeta Orionis Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center.

WATTS

“Illustrating my experience of the Watts Towers, I have mixed collage elements into the painting, much like Simon Rodia did, in his construction of the towers. Where he found ceramic fragments and small figurines given to him by the neighborhood folk, I used found fabrics and other paper pieces to create an image of celebration, color and community life.”

Patricia Fernández



Watts
Painting and collage



WATTS

What interests Fernández most about the Watts Towers is the magical quality of the organic, sculptural walls that surround the historic landmark. Much like Simon Rodia, creator of the Towers, Fernandez used found pieces of material to design her collage.

Patricia Fernández (b. 1980, Burgos, Spain) earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of California, Los Angeles, a Master of Arts from Pacific Oaks College and a Master of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts. She is the recipient of grants from the California Community Foundation, Center for Cultural Innovation, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Joan Mitchell Foundation, and Ruth and Harold Chenven Foundation. Fernández has participated in residencies at 18th Street Arts Center's Artist Lab Residency, Drawing Center's Viewing Program, Fondazione Antonio Ratti CSAV and Idyllwild Art's Paintings Edge. Her work has been exhibited in Berlin, Los Angeles, London, Minneapolis, New York, Pittsburgh, Portland and Toronto.

WEST HOLLYWOOD

“The cityscape was created with a collage of photographs I took while walking along Santa Monica Blvd. I stitched together Russian Jewish iconography to evoke a spirited sense of history, and by creating a continuous fabric of color, life and joy using the city’s buildings, I also wanted to honor the strong LGBT presence in West Hollywood.”

Iris Yirei Hu



West Hollywood
Collage



WEST HOLLYWOOD

This colorful collage embraces a city rich with complexity by tracing memories from the Tongva to the current diversity of residents and the city's iconic status.

Iris Yirei Hu (b. 1991, Los Angeles) is an interdisciplinary artist whose installations and paintings explore the intersection between generational, cultural and gender identities through the use of textiles, embroidery, collage and poetry. She earned a Bachelor of Art from the University of California, Los Angeles, and Master of Fine Arts from Columbia University School of the Arts. Her often autobiographical work has been exhibited in galleries and alternative spaces throughout Los Angeles, New York and Berlin. Hu is a 2016 Paul and Daisy Soros New Americans Fellow and cofounded the experimental publication baumtest in 2013, for which she received a Rema Hort Mann Foundation grant.

WHITTIER

“The houses depicted are reminiscent of the homes that fill Whittier’s streets and are set within its hills. The house in the far right of the photograph reflects the Jonathan Bailey House, built in 1860, as a gathering center for the city’s social, economic and religious activities.”

Jane Gillespie Pryor



Whittier
Photo print



WHITTIER

Inspired by the poem “Telling the Bees” by John Greenleaf Whittier—the city’s namesake—the artist presents a surreal image of homes covered in pollen with surprisingly large bees. The artist also pays homage to the indigenous population who called this land “Sejat,” meaning “a place of wild bees.”

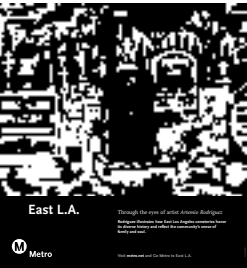
Jane Gillespie Pryor (b. 1981, Wichita, Kansas) earned a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Southern California and Master of Fine Arts from Claremont Graduate University. Her sculptural and photographic work has been exhibited regionally. Gillespie Pryor has taught art at Azusa Pacific University and Biola University, and she is the recipient of a Joe Sonneman Photography Prize and Maguire Teaching Fellowship.

Awards & Recognition

Posters in the *Through the Eyes of Artists* series have garnered several national and regional awards, including a *Print* magazine Regional Design Annual Excellence Award, Tranny Merit Award, Fresh Illustrator Award from *Illustrations Magazine*, Society of Environmental Graphic Design Award, HOW Magazine Design Award, and Los Angeles Society of Illustrators Silver Medal. Additionally, the series has been recognized in *ART LTD* and *Public Art Review* and was featured in the Pasadena Museum of California Art's California Design Biennial.

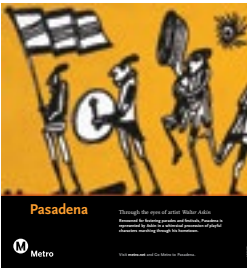
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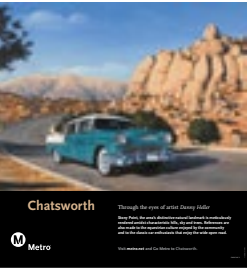
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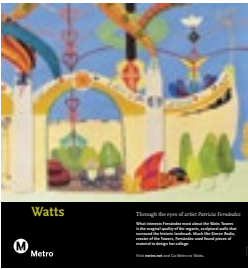
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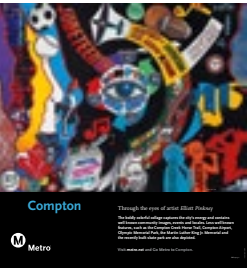
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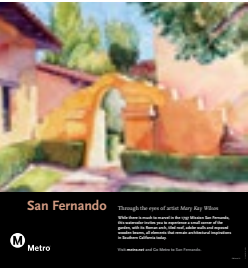
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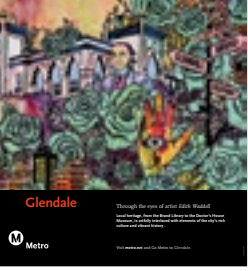
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Acknowledgments & Credits

Metro wishes to thank the many talented artists who have contributed their visions of Los Angeles neighborhoods and places to the *Through the Eyes of Artists* program. We would also like to thank Lynell George for her introduction to this publication.

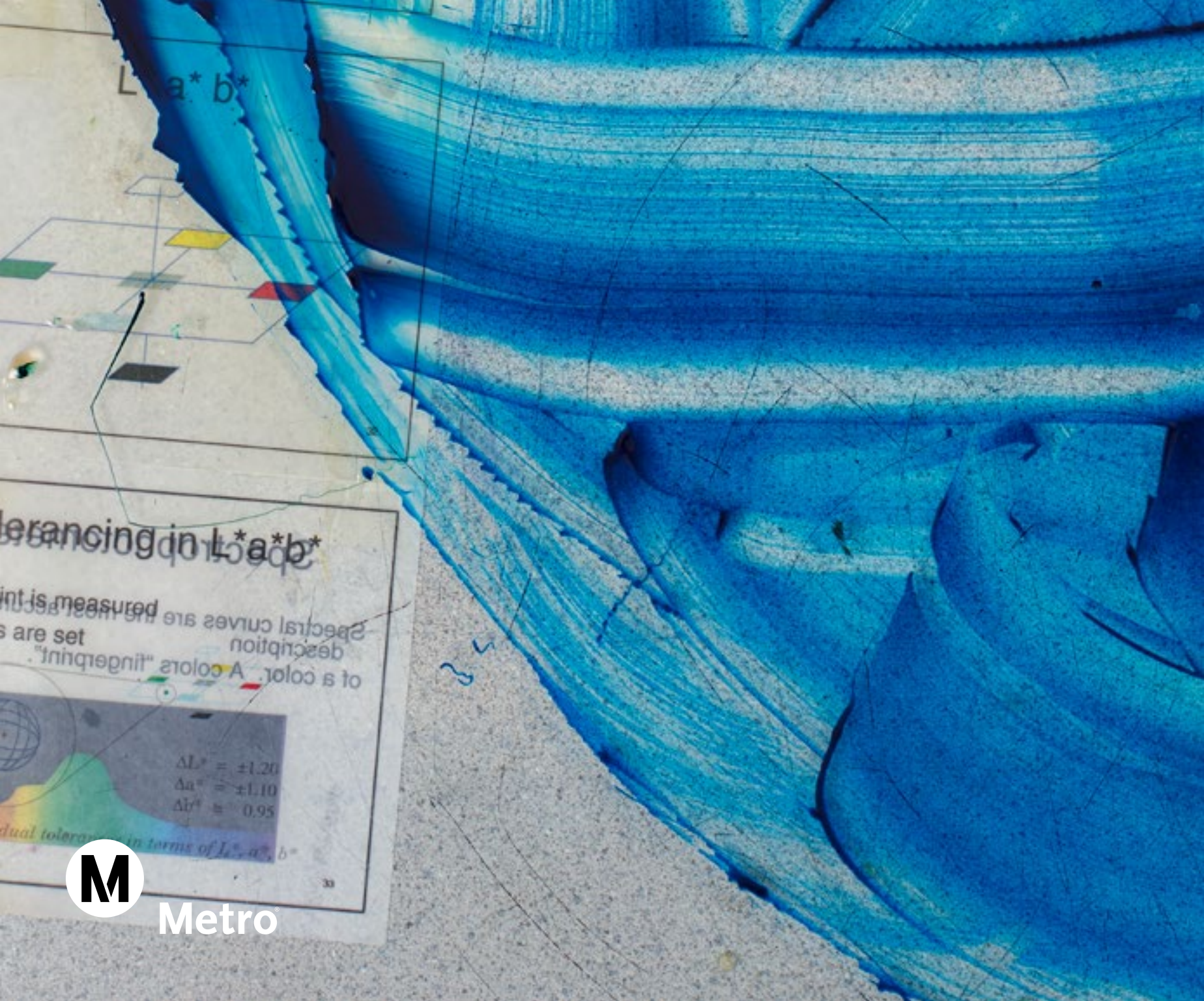
Gratitude also goes to the board members, executives and staff who have nurtured this beloved program since its inception.

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Phillip A. Washington
Metro Chief Executive Officer

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$L^* a^* b^*$

Specifying in $L^* a^* b^*$

of a color. A color description is measured by spectral curves are the most accurate description of a color. A color "fingerprint" is set



Individual tolerances in terms of L^*, a^*, b^*



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