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**[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) announced nominations for [San Diego Art Prize](#) in 2020.**

SAN DIEGO (Aug 23, 2019) – San Diego Visual Arts Network is pleased to announce the four artists that have been nominated by a group of art professionals for the San Diego Art Prize in 2020 - [Alanna Airitam](#), [Kaori Fukuyama](#), [Griselda Rosas](#), and [Melissa Walter](#). These four nominees were chosen from the nomination list for an exhibit at the [Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) from Sat, May 9 to Sat, July 3, 2020 when the winner will be announced.

The Art Prize Committee has two new members **Alessandra Moctezuma**, director of San Diego Mesa College Art Gallery and **Larry Baza**, vice chairman of the California Arts Council. They join **Erika Torri** director of The Athenaeum Music and Arts Library, **Debra McGinty-Poteet**, collector and **Patricia Frischer** founder of the San Diego Visual Arts Network. This committee and a changing independent panel of judges selected from the arts community of museum directors, journalists, curators, educators, etc., submitted nominations for emerging artists who have exhibited outstanding creativity in the last three years.

The four nominated artists will be showing examples of their work at the [Art San Diego](#) from Thurs, Oct 10 to Sun, Oct 13, 2019, this year at the San Diego Convention Center Booth #122 (Hall E 111 W Harbor Dr. SD, 92101). A selection of artists will be on display curated by **Vallo Riberto**, former gallery director at Southwestern College and current president of the Contemporary Art Committee of the San Diego Museum of Art.

As reported earlier this year, Chi Essary has been selected as the new administrator of the San Diego Art Prize. Over the next year Essary will be streamlining and restructuring the prize to focus on artists of excellence, increasing the prize's visibility and building public engagement. [San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) is still funding and producing the [San Diego Art Prize](#).

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 emerging artists whose outstanding achievements in the field of Visual Arts merit the recognition.



[San Diego Visual Arts Network](#) strives to improve the clarity, accuracy and sophistication of discourse about San Diego's artistic and cultural life. SDVAN provides a resource-rich website and facilitates countless opportunities for inspiration and collaboration on visual arts projects. This is the only site designed exclusively for Visual Arts in the San Diego region. SDVAN is a 100% volunteer non-profit organization dedicated to reinforcing the idea that the visual arts are a necessary and vital part of the health of our city. SDVAN list over 2500 visual arts resources and gets about one million hits a year.

[Art San Diego](#) a contemporary art show in the heart of southern California featuring an international slate of artists and galleries. The show features over 500 leading contemporary artists, museum exhibitions, Art Labs, SD Art Prize, events, and Art Talks focused on collecting. Now in its eleventh year, the four-day event attracts over 15,000 high-net-worth collectors. Since its inception in 2009, Art San Diego has become one of the leading cultural events and inspired attendees from all over the world. ASD 2019 aims to play a key role in San Diego's rich array of cultural events, nurturing and strengthening the city's art scene with a dynamic agenda.

[Athenaeum Music & Arts Library](#) The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library has earned a reputation as one of the outstanding art galleries and art collectors in San Diego. The Athenaeum's art exhibition program, begun in the 1920s, has grown tremendously. Exhibitions in the Joseph Claves III Gallery focus on nationally and internationally recognized artists. The Rotunda Gallery emphasizes community partnerships or emerging regional artists. The North Reading Room is devoted to showcasing the Athenaeum's Erika and Fred Torri Artists' Books Collection.

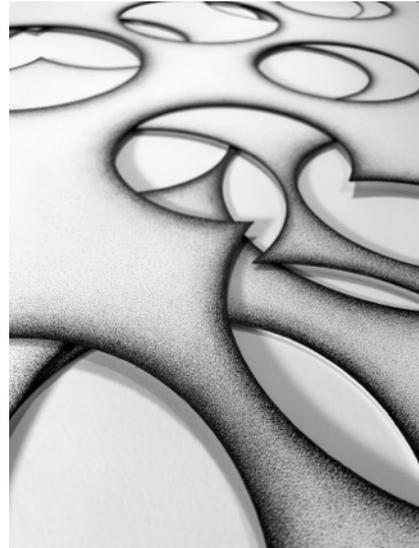
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Photos and resumes of [Alanna Airitam](#), [Kaori Fukuyama](#), [Griselda Rosas](#), and [Melissa Walter](#) are below.

More information: Patricia Frischer [patricia@sdvisualarts.net](mailto:patricia@sdvisualarts.net) [www.sdvisualarts.net](http://www.sdvisualarts.net) 760.943.0148



## SD Art Prize 2020 Finalist



**MELISSA WALTER** is best known for her optically stimulating sculptures of twisting paper and drawings of detailed geometric patterns. She visually explores concepts concerning Astronomy and astrophysical theories. Walter has worked as a graphic designer and science illustrator for NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and as a team member of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. Her experience has inspired her to visually articulate wonders of the Universe, such as black holes, supernovas, neutron stars, dark matter and more recently, dark energy.

Walter has completed artist in residence programs at 1805 Gallery and Bread & Salt, and participated in exhibitions at the Smithsonian's S. Dillon Ripley Center, Quint Gallery, the San Diego Art Institute, Torrance Art Museum, Helmuth Projects and the San Diego International Airport for a temporary exhibition titled Intergalactic Dreaming in 2017. Melissa Walter received her BFA, cum laude from the University of Rhode Island in 1998.

<http://www.melissawalterart.com/>



**KAORI FUKUYAMA** is a multi-disciplinary artist from Japan, who lives and works in San Diego. She creates paintings, drawings, sculptures, and site-specific installations that explore the interactions of color, light and shadow. Her subtle and delicately balanced work plays with our visual perception, and often invites us to slow down and be present in the moment.

Kaori Fukuyama was an Artist-In-Residence at Bread & Salt in 2018, and recently completed a large-scale public art installation in North Park (San Diego). Her work is a part of private collections internationally and has been exhibited at multiple institutions including Oceanside Museum of Art, Laguna Art Museum, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art, San Diego Art Institute, The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, and William D. Cannon Art Gallery. Kaori Fukuyama enjoys teaching at The Athenaeum Music & Arts Library, and continues to expand her artistic boundaries.

<https://www.kaorifukuyama.com>



Photographer **ALANNA AIRITAM** was born in Queens, New York and now resides in San Diego, California. As a portrait photographer, her work focuses on identity and representation, and proposes an investigation into the concept of wholeness. Her use of chiaroscuro lighting creates a painterly effect, that coupled with her use of symbolism allows her to explore the duality of light and dark both metaphorically and literally. Her subjects are illuminated in a way that calls for them to be viewed as the counter to contemporary stereotypes.

Airitam's images have been published in a variety of national and international media outlets such as Chicago Tribune, BBC News, VICE!, The Huck, Lenscratch, Range Finder, Feature Shoot, and the San Diego Tribune, among many others. Airitam has exhibited at Catherine Edelman Gallery in Chicago, San Diego Art Institute, Art Miami, and Bread & Salt in San Diego, California. An award winning short film From Harlem to Harlem about Alanna Airitam's body of work The Golden Age has been screened at various film festivals around the United States.

<https://www.alannaairitam.com>



**Griselda Rosas** (Born and Raised in Tijuana, Mexico) is an artist and educator from the border region. Her artwork falls under the umbrella of Post-Colonial art, in the way it addresses issues of identity, ethnicity and gender practices creating installation, sculpture, site-specific, curatorial projects and stitching-Paintings decolonizing imagery.

Rosas' work has been exhibited in national and international venues, The Florence Biennale, Italy, The Barrett Art Centre, New York, art residency at the *Camac* art Centre- UNESCO program Marnay, France, Bread & Salt Gallery, San Diego, CA and at the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego.

She was granted a fellowship through the minister of Mexican Culture -FONCA, 2016-2019 where she is developing a research on the aesthetics of Mexican female traditional clothing, presenting and publishing her research at the 56th International *Congress* of Americanists (ICA) Salamanca, Spain 2018. Griselda Rosas' work has a strong relationship with poetry and mind wandering, speaks about the ecosystem's fragility through an implicit construction of historical-imagery-memorabilia.

<https://www.griseldarosas.com/>