

Art Show and Wine Sale

Artists of the Cohn Restaurant Group



Ed Bia (Corvette Diner DJ)

After studying art in high school and my early years in college, I eventually graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Business from San Diego State University. As a youngster, I was always influenced by my father's artistic creativity. He first started in ceramics and eventually meandered into acrylic painting. His paintings are displayed in homes throughout the world. Herman Miller furniture and Eames designs were throughout my family home as I grew up. I was always surrounded by the mid-century modern movement of European Design, specifically the feel and clean lines of the Danish or Scandia movement. After my dad passed, one afternoon while sitting in my living room, it was one of his pieces that pulled me into taking a ceramics class in 2006. This rekindled my passion for creating artistic pieces.

As a child living through the Modern Movement of the '50s and '60s it has been a very significant influence with my current work. While taking a ceramics class at USCD Craft Center, my instructor, Isamu Kawasaki, a Japanese traditionalist has also

influenced my approach to creating vessels. It is my desire to blend a combination of nature and minimalism into each of my pieces. These most familiar environments are a source of inspiration for form and surface.

Keith Puryear (Prado Server)

I have been painting for about twenty years. I studied drawing and painting at the University of North Texas. My work has almost always been focused on the idea that as humans, we tend to break things down into units, which I represent with a dominant use of rectangles. For instance, the grid, which is featured heavily in the work I am doing now. The grid, in combination with the figures (mainly dancers) is intended to give a certain sense of life to the static image of a body in motion. The grid is a representation of both human perception and compartmentalisation, as well as a representation of our modern mode of living in this digital age.

While studying at North Texas, I met my wife, Molly, who as a dancer, and dance educator, has been a major influence and inspiration to me. This series is as much an homage to the craft of dance as I could hope to achieve, without having to set foot on the dance floor.



Gregory Dameron (Corvette Diner Server)

Gregory Dameron creates multi-media visions of digital dreams. In the series

'Science Business' the viewer is given an opportunity to live in a real-life megapixel meltdown.



Melissa McLerran (Island Prime Server)

Melissa McLerran has been dabbling in art since childhood. While her work is largely inspired by nature, she has been known to experiment in architectural drawing as well as still life.

Nearly a decade ago, she discovered block-printing using linoleum as one would use a stamp – this is currently her medium of choice.



Katie Schneider (C-Level Cocktail Server)

I work with pen and ink using a stippling technique.

I've always had a technical eye for clean lines, small details, and simple images; but I hadn't discovered my talent until a few years ago.

I went college at the art institute of seattle and graduated with a fashion design degree. four months later, I was lucky enough to land a job at Nordstrom Corporate in the Nordstrom product group divison. But after three years I found I am not made to sit in a cubicle. I changed direction and went back to school at a local community college where I took many art classes-- sketching, 3D modeling, life drawing, print making, but pen and ink is where I found my calling. The fluidity of stippling comes naturally. The detail to take a million small images to make a larger picture I find fascinating. My incredible passion for art gears my future goal to own an art gallery. I will not necessarily display my art, but the talent of others. I want to inspire and make the world yearn for more.

Cynthia Peterson (Server Island Prime)

"Photography deals exquisitely with appearances, but nothing is what it appears to be." ~Duane Michals

Cynthia references this quote to define the aesthetics of her art.

A California transplant, Cynthia left the University of Boulder, where she studied architecture, to attend San Diego State's Communications program. She quickly discovered that her passion was in photography, graphic design and visual arts. In the fall of 2009 she received her first digital SLR camera, and instantly knew she had found a medium for her creativity.

At the end of 2009 and early into 2010, Cynthia received a series of losses. The grief was overwhelming, and she found photography to be an escape. As she grew in her knowledge of photography and graphic design programs, she also discovered that she could transform the photographs into visual representations of the internal emotional chaos. An avid lover of Salvadore Dali, Danile Merriam, M.C. Escher and other surreal artists, her work often has a surreal or ethereal component. Many of her pieces reflect ongoing themes in her life including representations of her love of music, her question for spiritual understanding. With each piece unique in it's own right, and yet repetitive images and symbols reoccurring throughout her work, she sums up her experience as an artist with an Oscar Wild quote: "No great artist ever sees things as they really are. If he did, he would cease to be an artist."



Jorge Solorzano (Food Runner C-level)

Jorge Solorzano is a San Diego native photographer who discovered his passion for photography when combining it with music and action sports. In Jorge's final year of earning his B.S. Marketing degree at SDSU, he takes time to photograph the simple, yet beautiful surroundings seen in everyday live.

Amanda Riggers (Prado Server)

A self taught artist originally from Portland, Oregon I began creating and selling my artwork about ten years. Each piece is an abstract expression of a certain feeling, thought or image that moves me in some way. My work is a blend of bold, bright colors with fluid, organic shapes in an effort to create a visual and emotional experience. The use of chalk and oil pastels allows me to create movement and shading with my hands and fingertips. I really enjoy this "hands on" way of working with pastels. Although my art is very personal to me, I hope people will see something different and unique within each piece. As an artist what matters most to me is that you FEEL something. And whatever that something is, I hope you embrace it.
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