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**Media Contact:**

Lauren Spinelli

Olive Creative Strategies, Inc.

o. 619.955.5285 x 107

m. 973.738.2459

[lauren@olivecreativestrategies.com](mailto:lauren@olivecreativestrategies.com)

**Fifth Annual Artie Awards Presented by Mission Federal ArtWalk  
Celebrates Local Arts and Culture Influencers**

*-Event recognizes San Diego art influencers and announces the 2018 Mission Federal ArtWalk featured artists-*

**SAN DIEGO, Calif. (January, 26, 2018)** – Last night at the fifth annual Artie Awards presented by [Mission Federal ArtWalk](#) at The Westgate Hotel, three leaders in the San Diego art community were honored for their dedication and passion for the arts. The Mission Federal Art Walk team also revealed the 2018 Mission Federal ArtWalk featured artists.

The 2018 Artie Award winners included Patrick Stillman, local artist and founder of [The Studio Door](#) art gallery and Chantal Wnuk and Tracy Ann Thalo, local artists and co-managers of [Artist and Craftsman Supply San Diego](#). In addition to owning The Studio Door, Stillman is known for his work on orchestrating [The Business of Art Scholarship](#), a program that offers one talented student a mentorship on professional development and marketing, and gives them the opportunity to have a booth at Mission Federal ArtWalk to showcase their work. The second Artie Awards winners, Wnuk and Thalo, were recognized for their contribution to ArtWalk San Diego by providing an innovative, interactive art activity at all ArtWalk San Diego events—sharing their supplies and new art techniques with the community each year.

“We’re pleased to honor these outstanding community members that we’re lucky to have supporting arts and culture in our city,” said Sandi Cottrell, director of ArtWalk San Diego. “Mission Federal ArtWalk thrives through partnerships with these art influencers, and we’re thankful and proud to share the same goal—using the power of art to connect communities and individuals.”

In addition to recognizing the Artie Award winners, the 2018 Mission Federal ArtWalk featured artists were announced at last evening’s reception. Comprised of local, regional and international artists, these eight artists were selected from over 350 participating artists at this year’s festival. The Mission Federal ArtWalk featured artists stand out for their commitment to the craft, passion for inspiring others to create art and their unique styles. The featured artists include:

### [AkZhana/ Maxim](#)

AkZhana and Maxim are a creative collective duo, hailing from the Soviet Union and Kazakhstan. AkZhana brings more than 20 years of art education, including time at Almaty College of Applied Arts, Kazakh National Academy of Arts and Mimar Istanbul University. Maxim also has a Masters of Fine Arts from Istanbul University. AkZhana and Maxim describe their genre as figuratively decorative expressionism using bright expressions of a complex emotional world to create art. Their paintings often incorporate a female figure they refer to as “she” that appears in different settings and conveys a variety of emotions.

### [Ann Golumbuk](#)

Originally from Oklahoma, Ann Golumbuk attended the University of Oklahoma and earned a degree in interior design. She moved to San Diego in 1984, where she lives today with her husband and three children. While her artistic impression was constant throughout her life, her foray into the art world was developed over the past 15 years working as a volunteer art teacher for children at the elementary level. During this time, she was also the prop, costume and backdrop designer for the elementary school’s performances and directed the art and talent shows for many years. Now coming full circle, Ann is once again involved in instructing new and aspiring artists on her painting methods. In her commitment to being a green artist, Ann creates vivid paintings using recycled materials, finding items of interest in her environment and using every drop of paint to add dimension to her paintings.

### [Harut Hakobyan](#)

Harut Hakobyan is an abstract industrial artist, originally from Armenia where he attended Yerevan State Academy and learned from several of Armenia’s top artists. Harut expresses himself through the vast colors and abstract textures in his work. His work is owned by private art collectors all over the world, and featured in several interior design companies’ works.

### [Carolyn Johnson](#)

Carolyn Johnson is a mixed media fine artist with her own unique multi-level process, incorporating everything from painting, free-hand drawing, design elements, hand dipped paint marbling and detailed textured gels, mostly depicting nature-inspired themes. Carolyn is the communicator and voice of her work; she channels her creativity and passion to create a dimensional appeal on canvas that is expressionistically unique.

### [Tesa Michaels \(represented by Adelman Fine Art\)](#)

Tesa Michaels studied Fine Art and Graphic Design at The Art Institute of Colorado where she earned her degree. She worked in the graphic design field for some time, before re-discovering her roots as a fine artist. She picked up oils and found her true calling. Her work is inspired by nature’s abundant landscape and the energy and spiritual properties of earth’s beautiful semi-precious stones. Her unique paintings incorporate stones into one of a kind works of art.

### [Gedion Nyanhongo](#)

Master stone sculptor, Gedion Nyanhongo was born into an artistic family in Zimbabwe, Africa. Gedion's sculptures offer the viewer endearing elements of his Shona culture—the traditional values of the importance of community, positive and respectful human relationships and the sacredness of life with the intention to seek, evoke and inspire these same values in other’s families and cultures. His sculptures are created from Opal stone, Springstone and Zimbabwe Nayanga stone.

### [Dany Paragouteva](#)

Originally from Bulgaria, Dany Paragouteva began drawing at the young age of one. She was raised in Plovdiv, Bulgaria until she was 15 and then she moved to the United States. Later she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts in illustration with distinction from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif. Dany uses her European heritage and soulful appreciation of the power of fairytales to bring people into a fantastical world of the subtly surreal.

### **John Straub**

John Straub is a photographer and current member of the Motor Press Guild, San Diego Museum of Art Artists Guild and the San Diego Art Institute, allowing him the opportunity to constantly improve his craft. John's photography celebrates memories—rusted or old, shiny or new, and immerses the viewer in their soul, color, texture, and design. His interpretations of motoring emotions result in uniquely different vintage images, with attention to color, composition and quality of light.

The 34th annual Mission Federal ArtWalk will take place on Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29, 2018. More information, visit [www.artwalksandiego.org](http://www.artwalksandiego.org). To check out a recap of last year's event—view this [video](#) on the homepage or [photos](#).

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### **About Mission Federal ArtWalk:**

Mission Federal ArtWalk in San Diego's Little Italy is the City's first outdoor fine art festival and will celebrate its 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018. Mission Federal ArtWalk will run from Saturday, April 28, 2018 to Sunday, April 29, 2018, featuring professional artists from across the globe. Mission Federal ArtWalk offers collectable and approachable art from all kinds of media, such as drawings, jewelry, sculpture, paintings, photography, metal work, wood work and much more. More than just a visual arts festival, the event also features six performance venues for music and dance, as well as interactive art projects for both adults and children. For more information on Mission Federal ArtWalk, the featured artists or other details, please visit [www.artwalksandiego.org](http://www.artwalksandiego.org). Become a fan at [Facebook.com/ArtWalkSD](https://www.facebook.com/ArtWalkSD) or follow us on Twitter and Instagram @ArtWalkSD for updates.

### **About Mission Federal Credit Union:**

Mission Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit organization providing a wide variety of financial services to meet the needs of its customers. With \$3.1 billion in assets, 30 local branches, and more than 205,000 customers, Mission Fed is the largest, locally based financial institution exclusively serving San Diego County. Mission Fed enhances the lives of its customers through financial education and financial services. In addition, Mission Fed contributes to hundreds of educational and nonprofit organizations. At Mission Fed, your success is our bottom line. All San Diegans are welcome. Federally insured by NCUA and Equal Housing Lender. To learn more, visit [MissionFed.com](http://MissionFed.com).