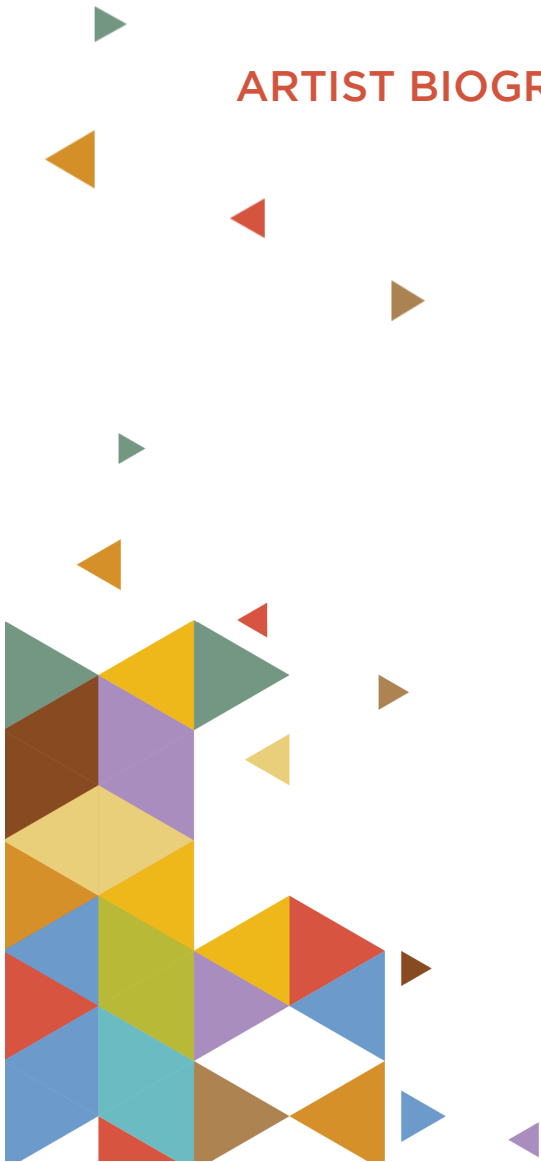




DISCOVERED

Emerging Artists of Sonoma County

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES AND JUROR STATEMENTS





DISCOVERED

Emerging Artists of Sonoma County

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES AND JUROR STATEMENTS

VISUAL ARTS JURY

Jeff Nathanson

Lead Juror and Juror's Statement Author

Jessica Martin

Alejandro Salazar

LITERARY ARTS JURY

Ellen Sussman

Lead Juror and Juror's Statement Author

Vicki DeArmon

Elizabeth Stark

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NICOLE IRENE ANDERSON

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nicole Irene Anderson was born in 1993 in Cambria, California. She studied at Cuesta College in San Luis Obispo, where she received an A.A. in Studio Art (2015) and an A.A. in Art History and Professional Practices (2015). She then studied at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco, where she earned a B.F.A. in Painting/Drawing (2017). Anderson's work has been shown in exhibitions throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and New York.

She earned the Louis and Lundy Siegriest Memorial Scholarship (2015), and the Ted Doyle Scholarship (2016) at the California College of the Arts. Anderson works at her studio in Santa Rosa, California.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

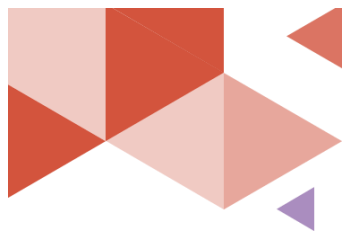
Nicole Irene Anderson creates expertly crafted paintings that are surprisingly complex. Painting in a narrative style, she works from a social-environmental-psychological perspective—creating multiple layers both in content and in technique. We visited her studio at 33 Arts and were immediately drawn to the rich layered surfaces and complex imagery.

She is articulate and confident in describing her process, how she travels to photograph and draw in various locations, looking for landscapes that are clearly altered by human activity. The paintings are evocative, seductive and unsettling, with a narrative that is left to the observer to interpret. Reality and the subconscious co-exist in her paintings in an unexpected balance with architectural elements, figures engaged in questionable activities, and an environmental subtext.



More about Nicole at nicoleireneanderson.com

Use QR code scanner on mobile device or iPhone camera to scan code.



ANNETTE GOODFRIEND

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Annette Goodfriend was born and raised in Northern California. She completed her undergraduate degree at U.C. Berkeley, where she studied Genetics and Art, and she received her master of fine arts at the California College of the Arts. Annette is a winner of the 2018 international art competition Premio O.R.A. Italia, and was awarded a solo exhibition at 3)5 Arte Contemporanea, a contemporary art gallery in Viterbo, Italy. One of 18 artists from 15 countries, her work was chosen for the YICCA International Art Competition, and exhibited at the HDLU Pavilion in Zagreb, Croatia.

Artist residencies include the Morris Graves Foundation in Humboldt County, and the Headlands Center for the Arts, as an affiliate. Her sculpture has garnered multiple awards having been exhibited in solo and group shows locally, nationally, and internationally.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Upon entering Annette Goodfriend's studio one cannot avoid drawing a comparison to a biology lab. At first glance it appears that there are body parts and strange, unidentifiable organic specimens placed in a semi-formal arrangement throughout the space. Her work is anatomical, with numerous human and biological references. But these pieces, mostly in white against a dark wall, also have the formal presence of classical figurative sculpture.

Talking about her work, Goodfriend is friendly and upbeat, as she describes her interest in the relationship between humans, nature, and science. But, in spite of her down to earth manner, her themes and concerns are complex and serious. Annette uses silicone rubber, gypsum,

Continued on Reverse



ANNETTE GOODFRIEND

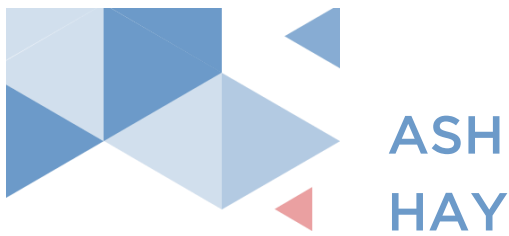
JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

and resin to create her compelling works that address politics of the body, genetics, the human condition, and our relationship to nature and the environment.



More about Annette at AnnetteGoodfriend.com

Use QR code scanner on mobile device or iPhone camera to scan code.



ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ash Hay grew up in the San Fernando Valley among a large family of makers and creators who nurtured their interest in art from a very young age. Ash moved to Sonoma County to attend Sonoma State University where they received their BFA in printmaking and currently lives and works in Santa Rosa.

For Ash, visual art is the most natural way to explore and express ideas of identity and communication in a way that connects them to the skills and craft that they have been honing since they were a child. Ash continues to expand their work among a supportive network of local artists who create opportunities for themselves and others.

Ash has created work for SOMO Village, has participated in numerous community craft fairs and festivals, and hosted a local Drink & Draw program. Ash's deep connections to community play a large role in their work and they are often asking "How does the experience in my body reflect that of the collective body?"

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Ash Hay's studio is a small space, somewhat cluttered and full of doll-like soft sculptures that initially evoke a smile. The works are whimsical and easy to like. But, it doesn't take long to discover layers of meaning about gender, identity, form, and relationships. Hay works with fabric to create the large sculptures with the human body as a primary focus. Additionally, works on paper and clay objects, dominated by the color pink, address a theme of softness as power. Hay speaks about the work—and life—very openly explaining how fatness impacts peoples' lives. The work conveys a deep interest in exploring gender, body acceptance, and how the size of

Continued on Reverse



ASH
HAY

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

one's body, especially large bodies, impacts how one navigates the world.



More about Ash at ashhayart.com

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C.K.
ITAMURA

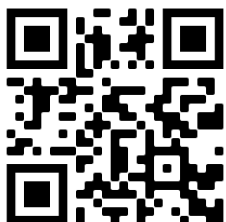
ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

C.K. Itamura is an autodidactic interdisciplinary artist. Her work blurs the lines between mediums as she combines tangible materials, sensory prompts, space, time, book arts, language, and photography to create visual work, participatory projects and conceptual installations. C.K. is Co-Founder of Book Arts Roadshow, an artist member of The Center for Book Arts, a former director of San Francisco Center for the Book, a board member of Healdsburg Center for the Arts, and an Artist-in-Residence of Chalk Hill Residency and In Cahoots Residency.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

C.K. Itamura's studio is clean, well lit, and impeccably organized, much like the elegant and minimalist installations at the heart of her art practice. She is an interdisciplinary artist, writer, and designer who blurs the lines between mediums as she combines various materials, book arts, language, and photography to create visual art, participatory projects and conceptual installations. Itamura develops her work conceptually and about her Discovered installation she explains that she does not want the work to be static.

Her aim is to challenge the typical concept of an art exhibition, in which the art is installed, is on view for a time, and then de-installed. In this exhibition her installation will continue to evolve and change by her regularly working on it over the course of the exhibition. This adds a performative dimension to her installation; there will be times when the public will be able to observe, and on occasion, participate in the process.



More about C.K. at peachfarmstudio.net

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NESTOR TORRES LUPERCIO

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nestor Torres Lupercio was born in Sonoma County during the nineties in a family that emigrated from Aguascalientes, Mexico. He was raised in Sebastopol, California where he would wander the apple orchard where he grew up.

When he was eighteen years old, an interest in photography was sparked. After that, he decided to take photography classes at Santa Rosa Junior College; as Nestor transitioned from school to entering the workforce, he studied light, composition, and equipment on his own. While spending years practicing capturing portraits, nightscapes by the coast, and street photography in Mexico, he noticed that photography was a healthy outlet to deal with unresolved depression, chronic pain, and bicultural identity crisis.

For the last three years, Nestor has taken solo trips to different parts of Mexico to practice street photography and as a way of honoring his Mexican roots. In 2016, He was featured in the bilingual newspaper *La Prensa Sonoma* for his work inspired by the Mexican board game *La Lotería*. In 2017 The Press Democrat named him as a “Notable Sonoma County artist.” He has presented his work in a variety of art exhibitions such as Día de los Muertos in Petaluma for the last two years and more recently a solo art exhibition, *Paleteros De México* in Santa Rosa.

Photography has become Nestor’s go-to medicine to cope with different aspects in his life physically and mentally. Nestor continues documenting in Mexico, capturing various traditions and aspects overlooked or culturally appropriated and give a deeper look and appreciation from a perspective from a first-generation Mexican American artist.

Juror’s Statement on Reverse



NESTOR TORRES LUPERCIO

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Meeting Nestor Torres Lupercio was a memorable experience. He lives in a comfortable house with his parents, his sister and her family, who were present during our visit. Lupercio showed us his photographs in a small room off the front hallway that he uses as a studio. Then, we enjoyed an unexpected surprise as his mother served us a traditional lunch with homemade tamales, rice, salsa, guacamole, and other delicious treats. The culinary aspect of this studio visit, plus the presence of his family, provided the perfect cultural context for Nestor's very personal and moving photographs. He has spent the past two years documenting life and details leading up to, during, and after Día De Los Muertos in Mexico. In his numerous trips to Mexico he has beautifully photographed Mexican tradition. He explains that he was born in Sonoma County but his parents are immigrants and for him, there is a spiritual connection that draws him to Mexico and inspires his creativity.



More about Nestor at nestortlphoto.com

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LEILANI
CLARK

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Raised in Hawaii and Los Angeles, Leilani Clark received a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature from the University of California San Diego. She played in indie bands and traveled for a few years, before settling down to teach middle and high school English in New Mexico and Oakland. In 2008, she received an MFA in Writing and Consciousness from the California Institute of Integral Studies.

Clark's writing has appeared at *The Guardian*, *Mother Jones*, *Civil Eats*, *The Press Democrat*, *The Rumpus*, and other publications. A former staff writer at the *North Bay Bohemian*, she was a 2014 California Endowment Health Reporting Fellow, and her feature story about a federal crackdown on Northern California cannabis dispensaries won a California Newspaper Publishers Association award. She currently makes her living in nonprofit communications and as the editor of a regional food magazine. She lives in Santa Rosa with her family.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Leilani Clark writes with a searing intensity about her struggles with alcohol addiction. She pokes and prods, looking for truth in the dark and complicated spaces of her life. She's willing to expose both her weakness and her triumphant spirit, all in search of a greater truth. It's ambitious writing; we applaud her courage and her talent.

Ms. Clark's prose is strong and versatile. She's able to capture the gritty moments of her life with language that feels raw and true. And she's able to access a more elegant language for the loftier moments of her storytelling. The writing has energy and verve. We learn so much about her and her world because of her unwavering eye.

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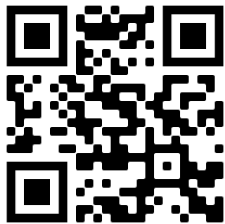


LEILANI
CLARK

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

Memoir has to transcend the personal story in order to succeed. Ms. Clark tells a deeply personal story in both of the essays she submitted for this grant, and in both cases she reaches far beyond her own personal experience in order to impact the reader. She has a way of suggesting: do you know my story? Do you see yourself in my actions? Can we take a hard look at alcoholism, at forgiveness, at the MeToo Movement, at our search for heroes? Can we find a glimpse of a brighter future?

We're excited to read more of Ms. Clark's powerful writing in the future.



More about Leilani at leilaniclark.com.

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ERNESTO M. GARAY

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Ernesto Garay is an award-winning poet, performer, teacher and social activist. Mr. Garay holds two Masters Degrees: one in Comparative Literature and the other in Ethnic Studies. He is a widely published poet in both Spanish and English. Mr. Garay teaches poetry to children, teens and adults living with intersectional vulnerability, in schools and organizations in Sonoma County.

Presently, Mr. Garay is finishing his book of poetry: *Reverberating Voices*. Traversing the borders of El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico and California, it speaks about the experience of immigration, racism, healing the spirit, displacement and love during the Central American Civil Wars of the 1970s and 1980s.

He is passionate about social justice and advocating for the Latino immigrant community. Immensely creative and accomplished, he inspires us and moves among us with unfailing humility, generosity and grace.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Ernesto Garay's poems take us to the border, to the streets, to the desert, to abuela's kitchen. They offer us love and anger, hope and despair. They speak the language of the people. And they tell the stories of Central American immigrants struggling to find a home in the United States. Mr. Garay is a brave storyteller who doesn't shy away from difficult material. In fact, he makes real poetry out of human suffering.

These poems both open our eyes and lift our spirits. We can't look away. The Salvadoran Death Squad lives in the same world as the melodious Toucan birds. A boy runs. A woman makes pupusas. A man cruises the Mission. Immigrants fight for life at the border. Mr. Garay gives voice to

Continued on Reverse



ERNESTO M.
GARAY

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

these human beings living on the edge. He finds poetry in their daily existence. And he uses the language of the people so that their stories aren't lost in translation.

We found these poems to be surprising, alive and vibrant. And we were impressed with Mr. Garay's range, not only in the stories he wants to tell, but in the craft itself. He's an important poet for our time.



More from Ernesto: <https://ernestogaray.weebly.com>.

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CHELSEA ROSE KURNICK

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Chelsea Rose Kurnick (she/her) is a writer and artist from southern California living in Sonoma County. She earned a BA in Linguistics in 2010 from University of California Riverside, where she was also editor-in-chief of *Mosaic: A Journal of Literature and Art*. In 2013-14, she created and hosted *The Casserole*, an online literary reading series that aired live on YouTube featuring remote guests from all over the world.

Chelsea began studying the craft of poetry at age 15 and began curating literary arts events at 20. She attributes most of her education in writing to community workshops and weekly open mics, which she has sought out since 2005 in every city she's lived. Chelsea believes that poetry and storytelling are powerful tools for building empathy and are at their most vital when experienced in person.

In Sonoma County, Chelsea has continued to produce arts events with activism at their core. She is Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of Positive Images, an LGBTQIA Community Center of Sonoma County.

Chelsea's work explores longing and loss, sometimes personal and sometimes global in scope; she writes of messy partnerships and humankind's tenuous relationship to the material world we inhabit.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Chelsea Kurnick shows a remarkable gift for language in these brilliant poems. She asks us to listen closely, to tune our ears so that we can hear sounds that we never heard before.

Sometimes she moves us through her poems rhythmically, sometimes haltingly, and always, we fall under her spell. We learn about the natural

Continued on Reverse



CHELSEA ROSE
KURNICK

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

world, the sensual world, the world of love and sex, of family and of animals. She often finds the surprising word—fricative, masticator, quake—that jolts us awake and demands our attention.

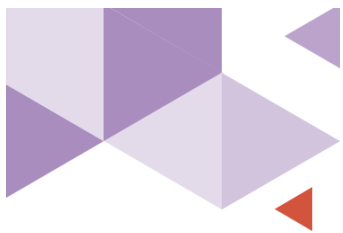
Because she has a lot to say. She demonstrates great range in form and content, stretching in new directions for each poem and prose piece. We also found humor here and a playful delight in language. Her imagery is often haunting and memorable.

We look forward to reading more of Ms. Kurnick's work in the future. And we were pleased to see that she reaches out beyond the page and into the community, creating opportunities for others as well. Brava.



More from Chelsea at youtube.com/user/thecasserolereading

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JOY
LANZENDORFER

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Joy Lanzendorfer is a writer living in Petaluma. Her first novel, *Right Back Where We Started From*, is forthcoming from Blackstone Publishing in 2021.

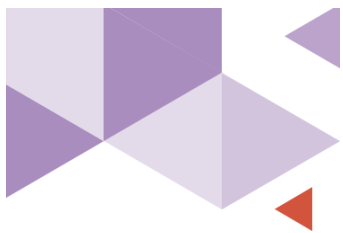
Joy's essays and articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *NPR*, *The Washington Post*, *Ploughshares*, *Smithsonian*, *Longreads*, *Poetry Foundation*, *Journal of Alta California*, and more. Her short fiction has appeared in *Tin House*, *The Guardian*, *Hotel Amerika*, *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Maine Review*, *Raritan*, *The LA Review*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and others. The short story, "Sleep Disturbance," will be included in *The Best Small Fictions 2019* this fall. She has received awards and residencies from the Hypatia-in-the-Woods, Speculative Literature Foundation, Wildacres Residency Program, Cuttyhunk Island Writers' Residency, Tin House Writers' Workshop, and others.

Joy started out writing for alternative weeklies, including local publications like the *North Bay Bohemian* and the *Pacific Sun* in Marin. In 2005, she received her MA in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. Prior to that she received a BA in English from University of Oregon.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Joy Lanzendorfer writes like a dream. She takes us so thoroughly inside her fictional world—a small Michigan town in 1927—that we don't just follow her characters around, we see the world through their eyes. We feel their terror, their grief, their joy. Ms. Lanzendorfer's writing keeps us riveted, page by page. We can't wait to read the rest of this powerful novel!

Continued on Reverse



JOY
LANZENDORFER

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

The Bath School Disaster, a novel about a school bombing that killed forty-five people, starts by dropping us into the heat of the action. Ms. Lanzendorfer's compelling narrator was killed in the event and in some ghostlike form tells us the gripping story. The author has established a terrific voice for the novel. And she has a formidable skillset that enables her to fill her pages with rich characterization, vivid scene-making and emotional depth. She finds exactly the right detail: "Their screams were high and shrill, each a small steaming kettle. Inkwells shot to the ceiling like bullets." Ms. Lanzendorfer knows how to find the grace in quiet moments as well as big drama.

We know that Joy Lanzendorfer is a disciplined and dedicated writer. That, and her enormous talent, should take her far in the literary world.



More from Joy: <http://www.ohjoy.org/category/joys-work/>
Use QR code scanner on mobile device or iPhone camera to scan code.



NICOLE R.
ZIMMERMAN

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Nicole R. Zimmerman holds a master of fine arts in Writing from the University of San Francisco, which selected one of her essays for consideration in the AWP Intro Journals Project. Her Pushcart-nominated work appears in publications such as *The Best Women's Travel Writing*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Toho Journal*, *Ruminate*, *Noyo River Review*, *Birdland Journal*, *Origins*, *South Loop Review*, and *Creative Nonfiction*. She has freelanced as a reporter for *Petaluma Patch*, as a Towns correspondent for *The Press Democrat*, and as a copywriter for TripAdvisor. Nicole is an alumna of Lit Camp, a juried writers conference. She taught creative writing in after-school programs and is certified to lead workshops in the Amherst Writers & Artists (AWA) method. Born in Brazil and raised (mostly) in Northern California, she lives with her wife in Penngrove where she hosts Shut Up & Write!™ sessions.

JUROR'S STATEMENT

Zimmerman's essays are infused with love, tenderness and a very sharp eye. She writes about her family, and in telling their stories, captures their world, their era, and her own deep connection to each relative. In one essay, her father, a prodigal son who left home for Northern California, needs to tell his parents that his girlfriend is pregnant. In another, the author needs to understand her grandmother's life in order to accept her death. And in a powerful essay, she writes about her challenging brother, who lives a life so unlike her own, and yet, she's able to find compassion for him.

Ms. Zimmerman has an arsenal of literary tools at her disposal. Her prose shimmers. She chooses the perfect revealing detail as she captures

Continued on Reverse



NICOLE R.
ZIMMERMAN

JUROR'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

someone's childhood. Her dialogue is often surprising and spot-on; we hear and learn these characters through their very real conversations. And she shapes her essays dramatically so we feel the energy and drive of each story.

Ms. Zimmerman is ambitious and dedicated to her art. We applaud her and look forward to reading more of her excellent essays.



More from Nicole: <https://www.nicolerzimmerman.com/>

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