

UTILITY BOX ART PROGRAM DESIGNS 2025-2026**1. Artist: Kingsley Aarons****Short Bio:**

Orange County-based multi-disciplinary artist Kingsley is a creative force with a rich background in graphic design and traditional painting. As a progressive designer, he embraces a wide range of styles, taking bold risks to achieve original results. Kingsley crafts hand-made artworks that merge seemingly incompatible worlds into a cohesive new universe, blurring the lines between digital and reality with a sense of rigid elegance. His paintings prominently feature strong brutalist architectural imagery, drawing inspiration from his architect father. In addition, he utilizes structural photography captured during his world travels and digital glitched imagery, influenced by the effects of excessive screen time. Kingsley's latest series is visually stimulating, showcasing a unique blend of techniques and imagery. By questioning the concept of reality through digital mediums, he employs a visual vocabulary that addresses various social and pop cultural issues. His work incorporates both time and space, creating a fictional and experiential universe that unfolds pixel by pixel.

Website: <https://www.coroflot.com/Kingsley360/ART>

Additional Information: Box #62 – Fairview Rd & Newport Blvd

Artwork: Mrs. Smith

Original Medium: Mixed Media



2. **Artist:** Kimberly Duran

Short Bio:

Kimberly Duran (professionally known as Shmi) is a first-generation Chicana artist, creative director, and lead muralist whose work is rooted in cultural storytelling and community empowerment. Born and raised in Santa Ana, California, Duran began her artistic journey at age 11, painting mural backdrops for local school plays. Deeply influenced by her upbringing and frequent visits to her family's hometown in Mexico, she weaves themes of identity, heritage, and resilience into every piece. Duran is nationally recognized for her large-scale murals created in aerosol and acrylic, which draw inspiration from folk art traditions and the vibrant communities she serves. Her work is celebrated not only for its aesthetic impact but also for its cultural depth and social relevance. Over the past 23 years, she has led transformative public art projects across California, including award-winning murals in Santa Ana and Pomona. Her mural at 1212 E 4th Street in Santa Ana was featured in the Travel Santa Ana Dream Big campaign and highlighted on HGTV's *Izzy Does It* (airing Thanksgiving 2024). She has partnered with organizations like the Anaheim Ducks, Santa Ana Police Department, and numerous school districts to foster community engagement through art. Duran's work has been showcased in universities statewide and preserved as part of the cultural fabric of her hometown. She was also recently added to Wikipedia as a pioneering brown woman artist in Santa Ana. As a mentor and advocate, she continues to shape the next generation of artists through grassroots projects, mentorship programs, and mural restoration efforts. Each project she undertakes is a tribute to the strength, beauty, and stories of her people.

Website: <https://www.5hmi.com/>

Additional Information: Box #20 – W 19th St & Harbor Blvd

Artwork: Birds of Paradise

Original Medium: Digital Art



3. **Artist:** Brian Peterson

Commissioned by Someone Cares Soup Kitchen/Adam Ereth

Short Bio:

Brian Peterson is a visionary artist based in Miami, Florida who creates and paints murals inspired by a drive to capture the purity in humanity and its environment.. Brian's use of vibrant colors and simplified geometries captures the essence of the human spirit making his audience participate with the painting as if in a real life interaction. Many that have been able to participate in this experience is calling this "the next level of contemporary street art" style. Drawing on his design background as an award-winning automotive designer and his Christian faith, Brian portrays his subjects in a form that is simplistic, yet from a Heavenly perspective. His work can be seen in homeless shelters, recreational centers, and parks across the United States as well as gracing the walls of high-ends shopping facilities like Ovation Hollywood (formerly Hollywood & Highland) in Los Angeles and prestigious Hotels like the Marriott. Brian's humanitarian and advocacy work, which began with painting his neighbors experiencing homelessness, has led him to be featured in BBC's Amazing Humans, The Huffington Post, NPR, and a documentary film Faces of Santa Ana. His love for art, his community and Jesus Christ, led him to found Faces of Santa Ana, a non-profit organization focusing on homelessness and the rehabilitation of his neighbors, transforming their stories into powerful visual narratives and allowing the proceeds from these works to be used to uplift and support the very individuals he paints, turning art into a vehicle for compassion and change. Faces of Santa Ana has since expanded into Faces of Mankind, sprouting in cities across the US, such as Anaheim; Riverside, CA; Detroit, MI; Miami, FL; and Jackson, TN. He is presently exploring opportunities of collaboration and projects internationally, with a focus in South Korea, hoping to bring his work that radiates the resilience and beauty of the human spirit.

Website: www.SomeoneCaresKitchen.org

Additional Information: Box #120 – W 19th St & Wallace Ave

Artwork: Someone Cares

Original Medium: Digital Art



4. Artist: Michelle Ford

Short Bio:

Michelle is a photographer whose work lives at the intersection of light, intuition, and quiet power. She began her journey behind the camera in 2008 with a “big girl” camera and the invitation to shoot a friend’s beach engagement session. That early spark launched a deeply reflective and evolving career. For eleven years, Michelle dedicated herself to photographing weddings—traveling, observing, and learning to tell stories through moments both grand and tender. Over time, she came to realize that her most resonant images sprouted from everyday spaces: the quiet corners of home, the light that dances across walls, the emotional subtleties in daily life.

In her practice under The Coco Gallery, Michelle centers authenticity. She sees photography as a way to anchor memory and reclaim power, offering her clients more than portraits—their stories, their truths. Through Lightchaser, she leans into her more introspective lens: chasing light as both metaphor and medium. She describes each image as a dialogue— sometimes light is bold and assertive, other times it whispers through shadows. As an introvert-turned-artist, Michelle lets her camera be the translator of what she sees and feels. She composes with intention, embracing the tension between strength and vulnerability. In every frame, she invites viewers to slow down, connect, and witness what light reveals—and what it can never fully hold.

Website: <https://www.lightchaser.art/>

Additional Information: Box #38 – W 16th & Placentia Ave

Artwork: Head in the Clouds

Original Medium: Photography



5. Artist: Gabrielle Jimenez

Short Bio:

Gabrielle, an artist residing in Orange County, CA, and is currently pursuing a BFA at Cal-State Fullerton, specializing in drawing and painting. Her artistic creations span from still-life compositions to imaginative illustrations. She frequently draws inspiration from personal memories and nostalgic elements, including films, songs, challenging circumstances, relationships, or periods of tranquility. A core tenet of her practice is to preserve these experiences and share them, fostering connections between her artwork and a broader audience. Color serves as a pivotal element in her compositions. She contends that daily commutes and routines often lack vibrancy, and therefore, a work of art should transcend these mundane experiences. She embraces opportunities to amplify saturation and hues when appropriate, while also acknowledging that certain pieces necessitate subtle palettes. Beyond her artistic pursuits, she finds pleasure in leisure time with her partner and bull terrier, hiking, and checking out new coffee spots.

Website: <https://gabypaints.myportfolio.com/>

Additional Information: Box #104 – Bristol St & Santa Ana Ave

Artwork: Newport Bay

Original Medium: Oil paint and cold wax



6. Artist: Kathy Leland

Short Bio:

Kathy Leland is a painter in oils for the past 54 years. Her style is eclectic. She enjoys painting landscapes, figurative and abstract, most of all from her imagination. She is a self-taught artist and her favorite quote is from Henry David Thoreau who said "the world is but a canvas to our imagination."

Website: www.kathyleland.com

Additional Information: Box #78 – Wimbledon & Sunflower Ave

Artwork: Field of Faith and Hope

Original Medium: Oil



7. Artist: Emily Neely

Short Bio:

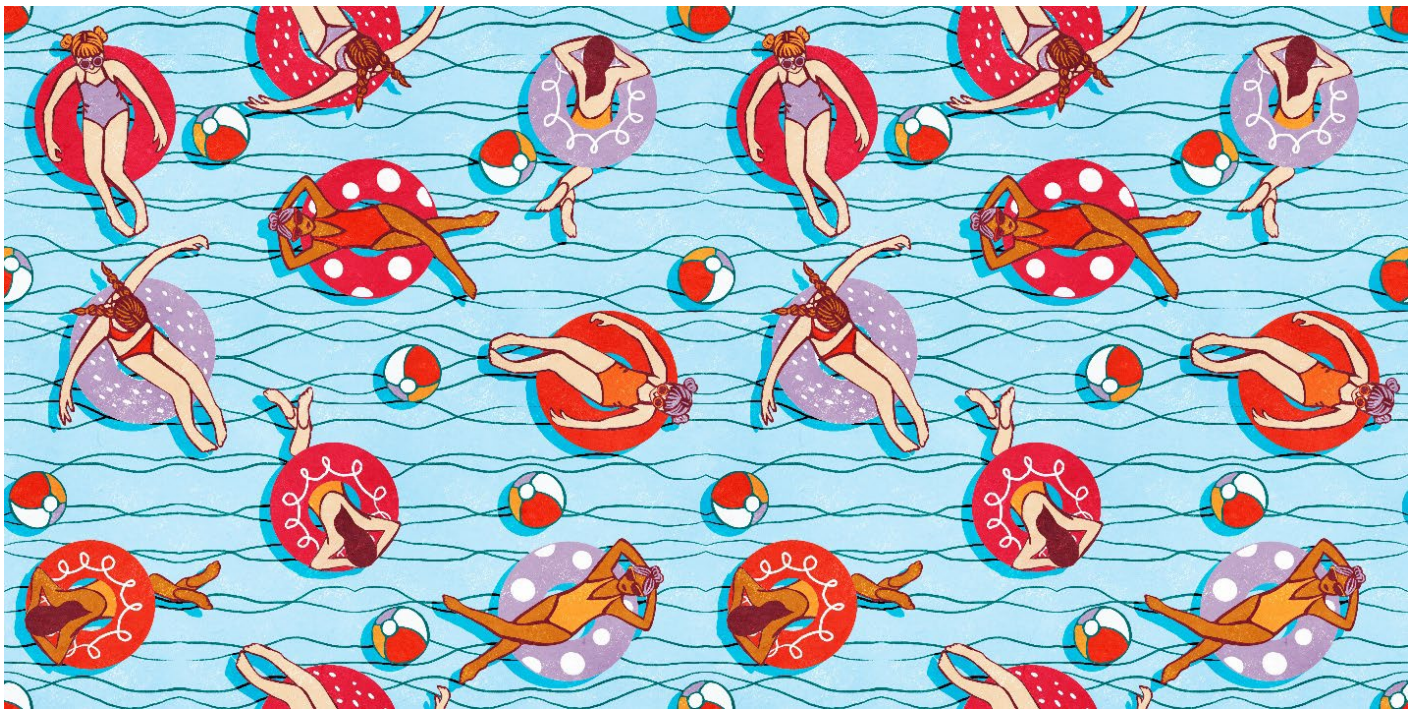
Emily Neely is an Orange County based artist who creates playful, colorful statement pieces that celebrate the best in our best friends (both two- and four-legged). Whether it's custom pet illustrations or designing cheerful prints and cards, Emily believes in making art that brightens our spaces and contributes to a brighter future for us all.

Website: <https://www.instagram.com/creative.empulse/>

Additional Information: Box #91 – Anton Blvd & Sakioka Dr

Artwork: Polka Dot Pool Party

Original Medium: Acrylic on canvas



8. Artist: Nicole Pete

Short Bio:

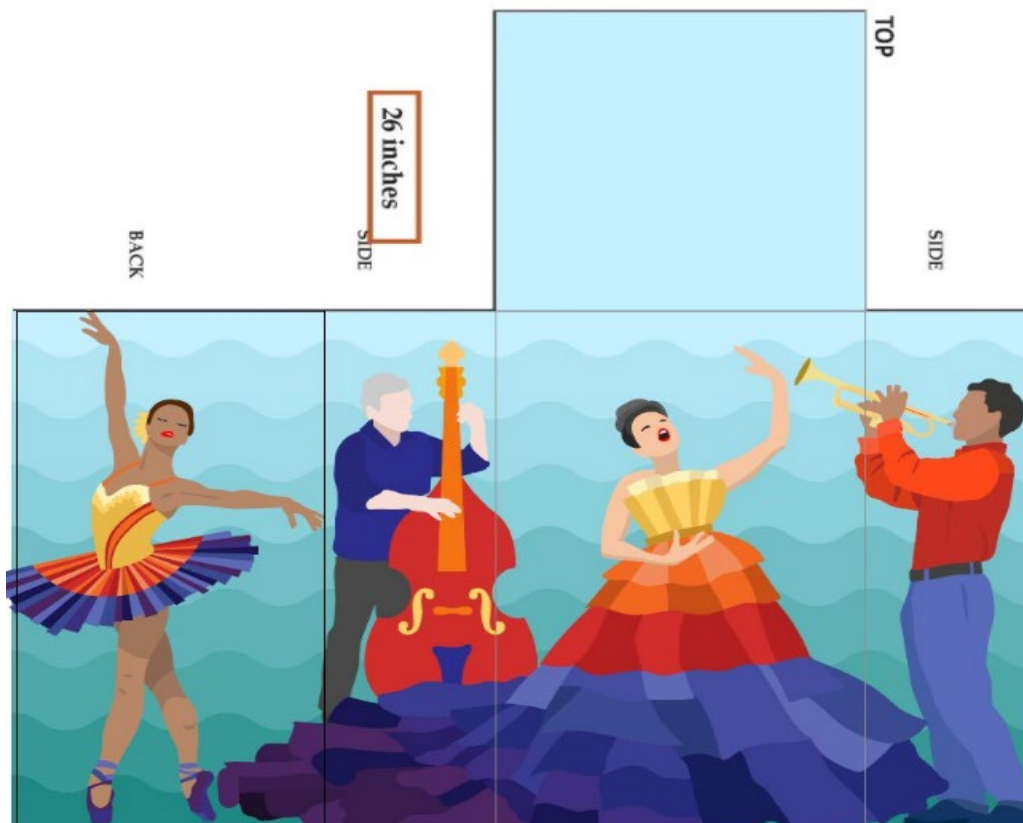
Nicole Marie Pete is a Southern California-based digital artist whose work explores Native American identity through a contemporary lens. A full-blooded Navajo (Diné) and enrolled member of the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), Nicole's heritage plays a central role in both the content and purpose of her art. Her maternal clan is Bitter Water (Todí'ch'íí'nii), and she was born for the Big Water clan (Totsohnii). Inspired at an early age by her grandfather, John Scott Sr.—designer of the CRIT tribal seal—Nicole grew up with a deep appreciation for cultural symbolism and storytelling. This foundation continues to influence her vibrant digital artwork, which often incorporates Indigenous themes, Navajo philosophies, and traditional motifs alongside bold, modern visuals. Nicole has illustrated children's books aimed at preserving the Navajo language, contributed to Native-focused publications, and created cover art for books celebrating Indigenous perspectives. Her work balances reverence for her ancestry with a desire to engage and educate new audiences through digital mediums. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Computer Information Systems from California State University, Fullerton. Beyond visual art, she is skilled in web design, branding, and digital graphics—bringing together her creative vision and technical expertise. Through every project, Nicole strives to honor her roots, promote cultural preservation, and share the beauty of Indigenous traditions in a way that resonates with people of all backgrounds. She continues to live and create in Southern California.

Website: <http://www.nicolepete.com/>

Additional Information: Box #85 – Sunflower Ave & Avenue of the Arts

Artwork: Costa Rhythms

Original Medium: Digital Art



9. Artist: Jaz R.

Short Bio:

Jaz R. (Jasmina Roitzsch) is a German-born visual artist based in Orange County, California, where she has developed a passion for digital photography and digital art since relocating in 2010. Her work reflects a keen eye for unexpected moments and hidden beauty, whether captured in her local surroundings or during travels around the world. Since 2017 Jaz's photographs have been featured in both group and solo exhibitions in Orange County where she also has successfully sold her pieces or has received multiple awards. The recent award received, Sept 2025, in category Photography & Digital art at ARTventure Exhibit in Costa Mesa, CA. Whether exploring urban environments or natural subjects like plants, Jaz brings a unique perspective and sensitivity to composition. She continues to explore new visual languages through digital layering, texture, and selective color, always searching for what she calls a touch of "je ne sais quoi."

Website: <https://www.jrdigitalart.com/>

Additional Information: Box #21 – Harbor Blvd & Mesa Verde Dr E

Artwork: Girl in Poppy Field

Original Medium: Photography



10. Artist: Nancy Ross

Short Bio:

Nancy loves creating and enjoying all art forms.

Website: N/A

Additional Information: Box #15 – Santa Ana Ave & E 17th St

Artwork: Bloom Where You Are Planted

Original Medium: Acrylic and oil paints



11. Artist: Maria Shevchenko

Short Bio:

Maria Shevchenko was born in 1982 in Russia and grew up in Ukraine since 1994, where she graduated from Poltava University of Economics and Trade. In 2011, she studied painting at the studio of Anna Flegantova. In 2012, Maria started a successful business in the service sector and was the head of a beauty salon until the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine began in 2022.

Maria and her son were forced to immigrate to the United States, California. She had to start her life from scratch and the transformation of a woman who fled from war to freedom was reflected in her work. From 2024 to the present day, Maria is a student at Orange Coast College, art department.

Website:

https://www.instagram.com/sheva_mariya?igsh=NTc4MTIwNjQ2YQ%3D%3D&utm_source=qr

Additional Information: Box #42 – Newport Blvd & 22nd St

Artwork: Solerentia

Original Medium: Oil



12. Artist: Kathie Warren

Short Bio:

Kathie Warren's artwork is original, expressive, energetic, fluid, and inspired by nature.

Kathie was born with creativity and entrepreneurial DNA. These attributes have followed her from being a child in Minnesota to an adult in California. Over time her creativity and business experience evolved; starting "Dreams in Glass Designs", offering gift items of florals with butterflies. Serendipity ruled her life. She owned a computer company, selling nationwide; then gained a degree and became a graphic designer. Then down the rabbit hole she went into the art world, She creates in clay, paint, silk and found items, challenging herself as she goes.

For nearly 10 years she was part of the Santora/SA Artist Village owning the Green Door Gallery, where she exhibited her eclectic range of paintings and ceramic works and hosted emerging artists. Currently, Kathie is an Orange County Fine Art member and three-year resident artist in the AvantGarden Art Gallery located in the Santa Ana Artist Village. In addition she has shown her work in Laguna Beach, Newport Beach, and Costa Mesa. Each summer from 2005-09 she was a regular volunteer at the Orange County Fair demonstrating ceramic hand-building. Kathie's recent focus is painting on silk and creating "wear-able art". In 2024 she continues to exhibit in nearby galleries. Enjoys the challenge of commissions. Currently (2024) one of her painting was wrapped on a Costa Mesa utility box. Now 2025 she is honored to have four oil paintings exhibited at the OC Fair. Since the first, she was an annual exhibitor at ARTventure.

Website: www.artistkathiewarren.com

Additional Information: Box #47 – Harbor Blvd & Merrimac Way

Artwork: Summer Blooms

Original Medium: Digital Art

