

RAW Gallery At The Uptown

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“RAW” ART GALLERY IN THE NEW UPTOWN APARTMENT COMMUNITY FEATURES TOP ARTISTS WHO HAVE CREATIVE CONNECTIONS WITH OAKLAND

THE UPTOWN APARTMENT COMMUNITY -- Artists whose work spans the creative spectrum from funky street art to metal and steel sculptures will be featured at the City of Oakland’s monthly “Art Murmur” event Friday, October 2, in the RAW Gallery at 1951 Telegraph Avenue (on the corner of 20th Street and Telegraph Avenue) in the new Uptown mixed-use community. The event is from 6-9 p.m. and celebrates Oakland’s rich and eclectic art history.

The art exhibit and special reception hosted by The Uptown, will feature some of the Bay Area’s and Oakland’s most noted artists, many of whom are known internationally for their pioneering and thought inspiring work. Featured artists include:

Chor Boogie
Cynthia Handel
Carly Ivan Garcia
Ian Ross
Joey DuRuy
Robert D. Harris

The City of Oakland has more artists per capita than any other city in the United States, and The Uptown and its RAW Gallery embrace this community of art. “We knew all along that we wanted to make The Uptown a showplace for local artists and their works, and RAW Gallery is becoming a showplace for that art,” says Denise Kelly, Manager of The Uptown. “We’ve also taken great measures to ensure that all of our art programs reflect the rich diversity of Oakland art community. We feature a spectrum of artists and art from young students to world-renowned artists. Some of the exhibited works sell for \$60 and some go for \$10,000.”

The RAW Gallery encompasses about 4,500 square feet of the ground level retail space in The Uptown; the space is currently not being leased. Kelly notes that Forest City is not generating any revenue from the gallery or the event, and in fact, is providing food and refreshments for Friday’s art showcase.

THE UPTOWN – Green Living at its Best

The sustainable Uptown mixed-use community is at the center of Oakland’s dynamic Arts & Entertainment District, which is home to numerous art galleries, performing arts venues, music schools and jazz clubs. The historic Fox Oakland Theater, adjacent to The Uptown, became a city

landmark in 1978 and in 1979 was named to the National Register of Historic Places. The theater is one of downtown Oakland's premier entertainment venues and is home of the Oakland School of the Arts. The Uptown management team established a relationship with the fine arts high school and features students' artwork in RAW Gallery and lobby areas, along with the works of other noted and aspiring local artists.

Formerly an under-utilized parking structure and service station on a designated brownfield site, the 14-acre Uptown mixed-use community is a prime example of what urban infill development is all about. Consisting of four city blocks, The Uptown is a mixed-use community encompassing 665 apartment homes including affordable units within three architecturally distinctive buildings. It is owned and managed by Forest City Residential Group through a joint venture with MacFarlane Partners. The project represents a true public/private partnership with the City of Oakland Redevelopment Agency.

Based on Smart Growth principles, The Uptown is much more than an apartment community. The Uptown is Oakland's first LEED Silver certified multifamily residential project (LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design). The Uptown is definitely committed to the arts and the environment!

BIOS OF FEATURED ARTISTS

CHOR BOOGIE

Chor Boogie, born Jason Hailey in 1979, was raised in Oceanside California a small city by the sea with in San Diego County. He was handed a paint brush at the mere age of five from his kindergarten grade school teacher, started painting and fell in love with the creative process immediately, telling his teacher "When I grow up I am going to be an artist." Thus overtime Chor Boogie was exposed to the spray paint medium along with many other trials and tribulations that changed his life and formed this learning lesson we live in. As a self made artist his drive and his passion fueled his study from renaissance artists such as Michelangelo, Da Vinci, and Rembrandt to more modern artists like Klimt, Van Gogh, Dali, combining a street culture of modern day spray paint "mentors" such as Phase2, Vulcan, Coma, Sake, Apex, Pose2, and in turn helped guide his lifestyle into a life it self. There is no color he does not use. He creates a wide range of forms pioneering his inverted can technique which slows down the pressure of the paint and creates dense, rich tones giving room for more detail on a broad perspective. Chor Boogie's dynamic range of artistic styles can manifest as soulful, deftly shaded portraits to color therapy, geometric elements adding up to half hidden faces, and a minds eye or two to encourage you to see internally and externally.

JOEY DERUY

From Scandinavia to Hong Kong, artist Joey DeRuy has adapted to his surroundings and absorbed various influences, which have promoted an intuitive creative style for which he is renowned. His illustrative, abstract paintings are often representative of the equally rational and irrational world we live in. Born in the late 70s to philanthropists in Africa, Joey has had many influences spanning and exceeding the gamut of many modern pop-artists. As a young child, his fascination with life in all aspects, as well as his natural talent, led him to expressions under conventional mediums including the standard of pencil and paper, as well as tutelage under famous artists during his early teens. Joey has since explored other eclectic avenues including tattoo art, illustration and design, and has eventually evolved to his current medium - fine art painting. Always keen to nurture new art styles, Joey's roots in paint with encaustic powder mixed with beeswax represents the oldest form of painting; one of the many ruminates of his youth in Africa. His passion and creativity are not limited to the canvas. Joey is, as well, a philanthropist and has donated work to such causes as the Human Rights Campaign's Black Tie Dinner and DIFFA – Design industries foundation fighting AIDS.

CARLY IVAN GARCIA

Carly Ivan Garcia has been redefining the boundaries of fine art throughout the Bay Area community and is now being considered the latest up and coming painter. In the past year his unique sensory style oil and mixed media paintings have been presented at numerous events and galleries in Marin, San Francisco and Oakland. The work has been spotlighted on television and showcased in the feature film *Touching Home*, starring Ed Harris. Carly's eccentric expression illuminates the diverse modes of feeling, experience and concepts that reflect the everyday landscape of people and ideas in innovation. His dedication to visual refinement over the last 10 years has manifested a prolific amount of compositions. The paintings assimilate dynamic interactions that ultimately strive for balance and reason on the edge of activity within the modern contemporary frame.

CYNTHIA HANDEL

Cynthia Handel is a California sculptor who has been teaching cast metal for the last 10 years. She was assistant professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, LA for the last four years, where she developed a full casting program including iron casting. She has taught at Sonoma State University, San Jose State University and other Colleges in the Bay Area. Her work combines cast elements with steel, wood and other materials such as silk and beeswax. Cynthia received her MFA from San Jose State University. She is currently a foundry and mold making instructor at the Crucible in Oakland.

ROBERT D. HARRIS

When native Bay Area artist, Robert D. Harris, begins a live painting the viewer is involuntarily drawn to his diverse artistic style- a fusion of contemporary concepts with figurative images. His unique method of combining modern art with historically recognizable styles, such as cubism and surrealism, is relatable without being predictable. The potential of crossing this fine line is what makes Harris not only a fine artist, but also a conceptual artist. Harris derives inspiration from spiritual energy, nature, traditional art, music and most significantly, humanity. He takes what lies beneath the human façade and creates a non-linear, authentic reality. This reality taps into raw emotions inherent in all human beings, though often hidden behind societal-influenced masks. Removing the mask and exposing truth is more than art, it is a movement. Harris' work has progressed into distinguished and highly recognizable pieces that are displayed in public and private collections worldwide. Additionally, he serves as a visual DJ through live art performances at special events including, but not limited to: wine tasting parties, celebrity concerts, art store openings, non-profit fundraisers, night club promotions, and business gatherings.

IAN ROSS

Ian's work is largely influenced by Doze Green and Damon Soule- artists with 'street art' roots. Ian admits the closest he got to 'committing graffiti' was a project that involved painting the side of a building that a friend's windows looked out upon in San Francisco. They got permission from the owner of the building, and Ian found himself "strapped up and suspended like a monkey" up the side of the building, which he then transformed into a three stories high by ten foot wide painting. Ian also finds inspiration in nature, which he learned to appreciate while growing up surfing and biking in Marin- "The organic feeling of my work is inspired by nature. I grew up in Marin, riding my bike on Tam. I am passionate about open spaces." He's just as passionate about art. Ian claims he knew he wanted to be an artist as early as kindergarten. It's in his genes too; Ian's mom, dad and younger brother are all artists. Ian worked primarily with clay, graduating with a BFA degree from Long Beach State, and continued working in ceramics before switching to painting five years ago. Ian's paintings are visually compelling, with bold, dramatic lines sweeping in and out of space. He tends to use earthy colors and paints with "no intention". He has several paintings going on at one time, often letting them sit for days or even months before working on them again. He says while they are in his "possession", they are often not finished. Ian clearly values the freedom his work allows, mentioning that painting will stop if the surf is up. With a smile, he says- "I'm allergic to routine, I never have the same day twice."