

Get Creative

LOCAL ART CULTURE

LOCAL ARTISTS
FIND COMMUNITY
IN THE BUNKER SLO

Located on Orcutt Road, right off Broad Street, The Bunker is home to local artists whose work spans across the creative spectrum. From illustrators to jewelry makers to painters, the studio offers a space for each artist to create and inspire one another.

The Bunker owner, Missy Reitner-Cameron, bought the space about five years ago as a place to create her own work and she wanted to offer that same opportunity to local artists. Reitner-Cameron noticed the lack of studio space in San Luis Obispo and the high prices that came with the ones available.

With The Bunker, Reitner-Cameron is able to provide affordable studio space for local artists in need of an exclusive area to work and create while also offering a collaborative work environment.

The Bunker will hold open studio tours in October where the community is welcome to take a look at what's brewing in the studio and chat with artists about their work.

BY SERENA LOPEZ

Missy Reitner-Cameron

Painting with acrylic on wood panel, Missy Reitner-Cameron creates relaxing geometric landscapes that are never short of color. Finding most of her inspiration from the extraordinary scenery of western states like California, Utah, and Wyoming, she



takes the intricate beauty and transforms it into a vibrant simplification on wood panel.

“It’s a geometric simplification of the landscape,” Reitner-Cameron says about her work. “My art is a slow down. I’m just trying to convey some quiet.”

With pieces like “Bishops in Spring II” and “Sunset I,” Reitner-Cameron translates the magnificence of each scene through complimentary, contrasting colors and geometric design. More artwork for sale is available on Reitner-Cameron’s website: www.mrc-art.com.

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Colleen Marlow

Colleen Marlow has been at The Bunker since July 2018 and uses her space to tell stories through her collages, drawings, and paintings. During her time away from being a physics professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, she creates work that ranges from simple pieces about love,

death, and war to more complicated pieces that are narratives of a time in her life or a person in her life.

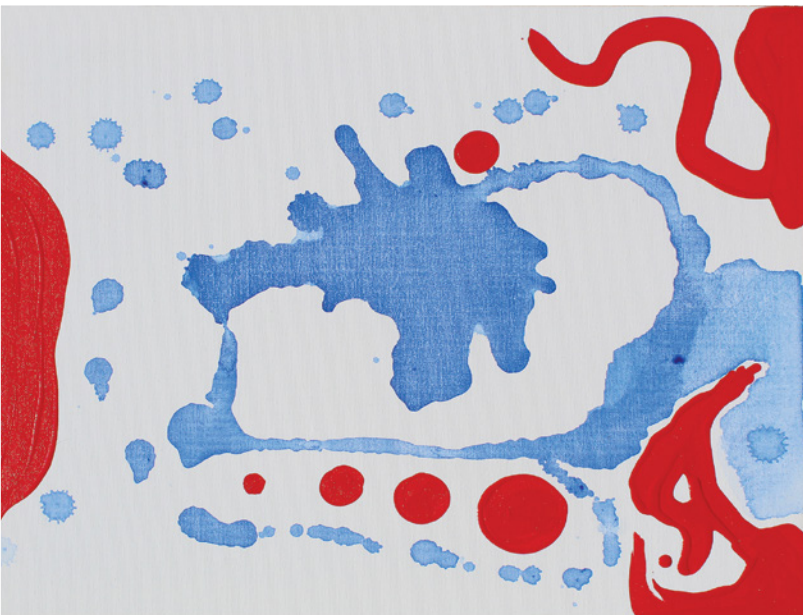
“A lot of the paintings tend to be more classic images and the collages tend to be more neurotic and more detailed,” Marlow says about her art.

Much of the work Marlow creates is a combination of collage, painting and drawing, as

well as written work. While each of her pieces tells a story, Marlow says nothing is literal.

“The goal of it is to take the internal spirit, soul and mental aspects of myself

and the experiences I have been through and put them out on the paintings, so they become more of a universal experience of being a human,” Marlow says. “What I want people to take away is to recognize the innately human experiences that hopefully make them either laugh or make them touched by whatever imagery.”



Claudia Makeyev

Creating lesson books for children and educational coloring books, Claudia Makeyev uses her artistic talent and knowledge as a marine biologist to educate children on marine life in a fun, easy way. She has created educational posters and books with the National Marine Fisheries Services and an alphabet book for her educational non-profit in the Philippines, MERMAID

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Makeyev finds much of her inspiration in the ocean, but also enjoys the freeing aspect of letting her feelings dictate what to paint. Her recent work, "Aqua with Red," began on a rainy day and she kept adding more and more color.

"These are all my favorite colors and I'm trying to concentrate on how the colors play off each other and how they make you feel," Makeyev said about the piece.

Makeyev uses a plethora of mediums from acrylic on canvas to watercolor on 300-pound hot press paper. For inquiries about her work, email claudia.makeyev@gmail.com.



Kerry Long

Founder and owner of Blueberry Jewelry, Kerry Long, has been a bunkmate for about three years

and takes pride in the work she creates in the space.

"I thought I was going to own my own business, but I had no idea it would be jewelry,"

Long says.

After working at the Gold Concept in San Luis Obispo for four years where she learned how to craft and repair jewelry, Long discovered her passion for creating jewelry.

Today, Long handcrafts each piece of jewelry from silver, gold filled and rose-gold filled. She also uses turquoise, pearls,



sapphires, rubies among many other stones and jewels.

"My stuff is really simple and easy to wear. It's meant to be worn," Long says about her jewelry. "I hope people can see it and know it's well crafted."

Serena Lopez is a freelance writer pursuing a degree in journalism at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a career in travel and lifestyle journalism.

