

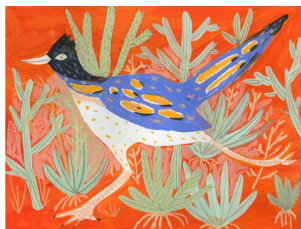
Melissa Lakey



I am a contemporary visual artist and illustrator based in Joshua Tree, California, where the windows of my art studio look out into the Mojave Desert.

I work in mixed media, combining organic textures, fun colors, and playful subject matter to create artwork that celebrates the landscape and animals of the American Southwest, as well as a nostalgia for travel, road trips, and summer vacations.

I wanted to be a cowgirl when I grew up but ended up an artist instead, and now cowboys ride through my paintings, picking flowers and stopping to swim in every creek they pass.



Arty Guava

Lay Hoon, better known by her moniker Arty Guava, is a Malaysian-born artist who currently resides in Vancouver, Canada. Her creative practice includes an array of mediums such as digital art, traditional painting, large-scale murals, and digital art installations.



After graduating with a degree in Bioengineering, Lay Hoon pivoted towards the creative industry to pursue her passion. She spent a decade in Singapore, where she worked with globally renowned brands like Heineken, Shiseido, and SK2, primarily in branding and packaging. In 2019, Lay Hoon migrated with her family to Canada and rekindled her artistic practice during the pandemic. Her work quickly gained popularity, and Lay Hoon began to receive commissions from notable brands such as Coach, Herschel, Society 6, Ong Shunmugam, and Frankie Magazine.

Lay Hoon draws inspiration from various sources, including her childhood in Malaysia, nature, and dance. Her designs feature vibrant flowers, celebratory poses, and animals moving freely through the wild, conveying a buoyant lust for life sprinkled with a hint of fantasy. She sees her art practice as a means to express her desire for more harmony in the world, encouraging people to live in harmony with one another, nature, the environment, and themselves.

Over the past few years, Lay Hoon's exploration of themes such as sisterhood, dance as an expression of freedom, balance, and self-care has been a continuous driving force in her creative process. Her art embodies a sense of joy and positivity that reflects her passion for life and her love for the world around her.

Peter Margonelli



Peter Margonelli was a photographer focused on abstracting the relationship between industry and the natural world. Through various means of reducing his subject's forms, whether it be the blurring of rain on a windshield or the flattening view of a landscape from above, his images drew attention to patterns and alignments in the contemporary industrial landscape. His images reflect an emotional landscape and inner world, more aligned with painters like Diebenkon than with traditional photography.

Peter's upbringing in a small industrial town in Connecticut acts as the inspiration and initial spark that led to his fascination with the ways in which industry has transformed the landscape. There is an ambivalence and sadness to the way he pictured the industrial world – his focus was not on the way the landscape has been ravaged or scarred, rather, there is a sense of empathy and nostalgia directed at the crumbling ruins: a sense of wonder at the histories and lives that once occupied these spaces. His images see into spaces without occupying them: they are taken from fleeting moments seen in-transit or from an unfamiliar vantage – giving the landscape a feeling of being just out-of-reach – like a landscape from a dream or a distant memory.

Melissa Leandro



Melissa Leandro (b. 1989, Miami, FL) is an artist who works between the media of drawing, painting, and textiles, currently based in Chicago, IL. Leandro was awarded the Artadia Award (2021), the Craft Fellowship Grant, from the Illinois Arts Council (2020), the Wingate Artist Fellowship from Vermont Studio Center Residency (2019). The Toby Devan Lewis Fellowship (2017) and the EAGER Grant for research and collaboration (2016, Shapiro Center), both for her studio work at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). She was awarded the Luminarts Fellowship (2017) from the Luminarts Cultural Foundation, Union League of Chicago. Leandro was a BOLT resident at the Chicago Artist Coalition for 2017–18, and was named one of Chicago's Break Out Artists of the year for 2018. Her studio work is featured in LUXE, Luxe Interiors + Design Magazine as part of their Chicago Style Maker edition (June 2018).

She holds a BFA and MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) and is currently teaching at the Art Institute as a Lecturer.