



STATE OF THE ARTS

STREET VIEWS

Eugene Weekly's second annual art box series hits Broadway Oct. 2 | BY ALEX V. CIPOLLE

At the beginning of summer, after scouring art shows, Instagram and online artists' networks, *Eugene Weekly* found four local artists that truly inspired us and asked them to design original art for our ubiquitous little red boxes. The artists will reveal their art boxes at 6 pm Oct. 2 for Lane Arts Council's First Friday ArtWalk downtown. A corresponding show of their work spanning the month of October will also be on view at Noisette Pastry Kitchen.

Here, we introduce the second art box team. To see mini documentaries of each artist, visit wkly.ws/22u.



SANTIAGO UCEDA

One of Santiago Uceda's earliest memories of making art was grabbing some crayons and drawing on his grandparents' wall in Peru.

"What's funny is that my mom was actually encouraging," he says, laughing. "She's always been very encouraging about art."

From growing up in Peru, where he was surrounded by pre-Columbian art, to relocating to Southern California at 13, where he soaked up surf and skate culture, and finally settling in Corvallis, its natural surroundings having now seeped into his imagery, Uceda has carved out a career as an illustrator.

"Every place that I've lived has influenced my work," he says.

The artist, who also does web design and motion graphics for Oregon State University, realized as a young man that he wanted to focus on illustration. "I took one illustration class at community college in California," he says, "and that was it for me — I wanted to make pictures; I wanted to tell stories with images."

It was in California that Uceda also began identifying as a "lowbrow" artist. "I don't want my work to just be in a gallery and selling for a ton of money," he says. "I like having my art available to everyone, whether it's on mugs, T-shirts, whatever — I don't see it as a precious thing."

Uceda works mostly with *sumi-e*, a Japanese ink, and Photoshop to craft pieces that mine imagery from his Catholic upbringing and his surroundings. His bold, colorful, expressive work echoes his favorite artists — Ben Shahn and Jean-Michel Basquiat.

"For me, it has to be bold," Uceda says. "It has to come from a really honest place."

To see more of Uceda's work, visit santiagouceda.com or follow the artist on Instagram @sucedu.



MARLIS BADALICH

Originally from California, oil painter Marlis Badalich first tapped into her passion in South Eugene High School's art room and darkroom.

"I like being a quiet person," Badalich says. "It was a great creative outlet."

Badalich went on to study at Seattle's Cornish College of the Arts before studying abroad in Greece.

"I went to Athens, and that was a really great experience," she recalls, "kind of starting at the beginning of art history, because in a lot of our classes, we'd go to sites and talk about what's there instead of being in a classroom and looking in a book."

From there, she returned to Oregon, settling in Portland, where she started showing at the Wene White Gallery before receiving a BFA from Lewis and Clark College. After dabbling in digital photography, Badalich honed in on oil painting.

"The pigments are real pigments," she says of choosing oils. "I like the realness of it; it has a much richer feeling" than acrylic paint.

When Badalich was pregnant with her daughter, she returned to Eugene, where she has shown at Jacobs Gallery and live-painted for Marv Ellis shows. She recently joined the New Zone Gallery.

Badalich pulls inspiration from many sources — nature, cubism, Expressionism, existentialism, iconography and artists like Egon Schiele and Marcel Duchamp.

"I'm really interested in the ideas of self," she says. "The idea that there's no self, but I like existentialism, too, and interconnectedness — that's where the multiple faces came from and it spiraled out from that."

Multiple echoing faces are a staple in Badalich's oil paintings, which she compares to solving a math problem.

"I always think I have a plan but it never goes that way," she says of painting. "It kind of takes its own path, which is kind of like life."

To see more of Badalich's work, visit mismarlis.com or find the artist on Instagram @ms.marlis.art. Badalich's "Predator Prey" and "Existential Overlay" series will be on view at Saginaw Vineyard until Oct. 12, as well as a series of paintings at Capitello Wines through October.