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Liberty Station artist featured in Art San Diego showcase

BY ASHLEY MACKIN-SOLOMON

In more ways than one, the work of artist Chakib Bouhdary is like a mosaic. In practice, he takes his material, cuts it into shapes and puts it back together to create something new. Personally, the effort to create the pieces represents the coming together of his upbringing, past careers and his life in San Diego to tell a story.

Bouhdary was selected to be one of four artists in the Art San Diego Local Talent program, which chooses local artists with studios at the Arts District in Point Loma's Liberty Station, to have a booth at the show Nov. 3-5 at the San Diego Convention Center.

As part of the program, Bouhdary taught art classes at San Diego's Monarch School (which serves students affected by homelessness), and the resulting pieces will be on display and available for purchase with a suggested donation to the school.

"It's very exciting to be a part of this, it's really a privilege," Bouhdary said, especially given that he moved to his La Jolla home only two years ago and recently joined the local art scene. He's

originally from Morocco and was trained in the technology industry before retiring and dedicating his time to his art.

"I liked art for a long time and did projects here and there, but when I retired, I tried to connect all the pieces of my life together through my art," he said. "Morocco is colorful and lively; they use shape and color to create beautiful spaces. So I took advantage of my culture and blended it with newer art technology like alcohol-based paint and resin to make these pieces."

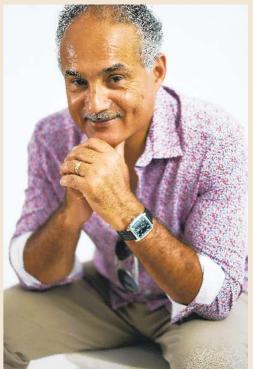
With his move to San Diego, Bouhdary is constantly inspired by the ocean and sunsets because they are "never the same twice; there are always new colors or clouds or flow or light," he said. He often tries to re-create the feeling of a sunset in

To make his pieces — which can be placed on everything from a canvas to a coffee table — he takes whatever material he is working with, paints it, cuts it or breaks it into pieces and reassembles them. He covers the completed pieces with a shiny sealant to "make the colors

SEE BOUHDARY, A20

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— Chakib Bouhdary



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FROM BOUHDARY, A10

pop even more."

"It's very elaborate work, but beautiful when it's finished," he said.

Bouhdary said the process "came very naturally" to students at the Monarch School because of its hands-on nature and creative aspects. But they also "broke the rules to make something that was just theirs," he added.

Bouhdary did two sessions with the students and one with their parents so they could replicate the projects as home.

"We did 15 pieces together. I was blown away by what these kids produced in an hour and a half," he said. "It proved to me the value of making art accessible. Art can be anything that makes you feel calm or happy."

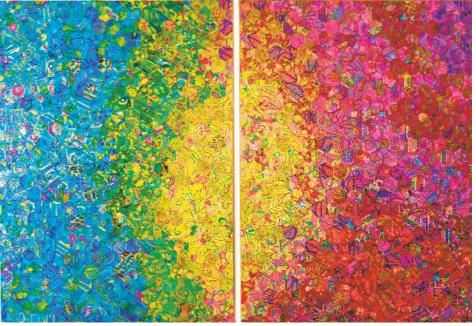
He also believes that art is necessary as a complement to the more technical skills children learn to be successful adults.

"When you look at something that is the right balance between design and function, like a car or a phone, that is the result of someone using the creative and the practical sides of their brain," he said. "I think we push children toward the practical side, but I think we need to encourage the use of both sides of the brain. I feel strongly that we need to expose kids as much as possible to the beauty of art. It's critical to the future of jobs and the future of humanity. It's really powerful."

Discovering the artistic talent in San Diego has been "eye-opening," Bouhdary said, and he wants others to discover it as well.

"It's so important to have artists in the community," he said. "It really surprised me that we have an Arts District in Liberty Station. There are amazing local artists that show there. I would encourage people to get involved in their local art community."

Bouhdary's Bouhdy Art studio is at Liberty Station's Barracks 19, 2690 Historic Decatur Road, Point Loma. To learn more about Art San Diego, visit redwoodartgroup.com/art-san-diego.



PROVIDED BY BOUHDY ART

Work by Liberty Station artist Chakib Bouhdary was part of the Art San Diego Local Talent program.

FROM WARREN-WALKER, A19

for others, confidence, initiative, perseverance, self-discipline and a sense of responsibility.

We are a small school, which allows for individualized attention and the opportunity for students to establish meaningful connections with each other and their teachers. We also offer a robust, well-rounded program that includes daily PE and Spanish, plus art, music, drama, library, wellness and information technology. We also offer a competitive interscholastic athletics program and international travel opportunities for our middle-schoolers.

Q. What's new with the school that you want everyone to know about?

A. With the start of the 2024-25 school year, our Middle School ... will be moving from the Mission Valley area to our flagship campus on Point Loma Avenue. We are excited to be the only private, independent pre-K- through eighth-grade option on the

peninsula, while continuing to offer bus transportation options to connect with families in other communities.

Q. What are the advantages of working in or near Point Loma-Ocean Beach?

A. We have a rich history of being a community school, and we enjoy proximity to the ocean, Sunset Cliffs, Robb Field and other local resources. The Middle School is looking forward to being involved in community service programs in Point Loma and Ocean Beach and is eager to incorporate natural and human aspects of the area into meaningful learning opportunities.

Warren-Walker School's Lower School is at 4605 Point Loma Ave. (619-223-3663). Its Middle School currently is at 2231 Camino del Rio South (619-260-3663), and its Early Learning & Infant Care Center is at 2905 Cadiz St. (619-771-3663). For more information, visit warren-walker.com.

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FROM CRIME, A11

pursued Guy on foot as he fled across Rosecrans until his route was blocked by a fence. An officer then caught up to Guy, twisted his arm behind his back and pinned him on the roadway on Rosecrans.

Many vehicles stopped because of the incident, but the driver of an SUV ran into the officer and drove over Guy, according to a 2021 lawsuit filed on Guy's behalf.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court instead of state court because it includes allegations of civil-rights violations, says police at the scene ran to check on the injured officer but disregarded Guy's medical needs.

Guy subsequently was taken to a hospital in an ambulance. Doctors recommended at one point that he be taken off life support, the lawsuit says.

The driver of the SUV, who also was a defendant in the lawsuit, agreed to a separate settlement with Guy. Terms of that deal have not been disclosed. — *The San Diego Union-Tribune*



