



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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3 September 2019

**Winners of “Discovered: Emerging Artists of Sonoma County” Program Announced**  
*Exhibition to open November 22, 2019 at Museum of Sonoma County*

Ten Sonoma County artists are being recognized through the fifth “Discovered Awards for Emerging Visual and Literary Artists of Sonoma County” program, produced by Creative Sonoma and funded by Community Foundation Sonoma County. Five visual and five literary artists were selected from a pool of applicants from all corners of the County. Winners’ work will be recognized and exhibited at the Museum of Sonoma County, opening on November 22, 2019. Winners will also receive a \$2500 stipend and a professionally produced catalogue including excerpts of the written work and visual images. Additional funding for the program comes from the National Endowment for the Arts.

“The Discovered program is a great vehicle to shine a spotlight on some of the individual artists in our county whose work hasn’t yet reached a broad audience,” said Supervisor David Rabbitt, Chair of the Board of Supervisors. “Receiving this award will be an important credential for all of these artists as they move their careers forward in Sonoma County and beyond.”

The winners were selected through a highly competitive process. Aspiring artists submitted written applications and samples of their portfolio, from which 10 finalists were selected for each genre. Visual Arts jurors then made studio visits to the 10 visual arts finalists; literary jurors reviewed excerpts of the writer’s work. Through that process, the five winners in each category were selected. A list of finalists and winners is attached.

“This program continues to fulfill its promise of bringing new artist voices into our collective consciousness,” said Elizabeth Brown, CEO of Community Foundation Sonoma County. “Many of the artists who have received this award over the past decade have gone on to successful careers in the arts.”

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**WINNERS:**

Literary arts winners are: Leilani Clark (Santa Rosa), non-fiction; Ernesto Garay (Sebastopol), poetry; Chelsea Rose Kurnick (Windsor), poetry; Joy Lanzendorfer (Petaluma), fiction; and Nicole R. Zimmerman (Penngrove), non-fiction.

Visual arts winners are: Nicole Irene Anderson (Windsor), painting; Annette Goodfriend (Sonoma), sculpture; Ash Hay (Santa Rosa), sculpture; C.K. Itamura (Santa Rosa), interdisciplinary installation; and Nestor Torres Lupercio (Santa Rosa), photography.

Lead jurors for the program are New York Times bestselling author Ellen Sussman and Museum of Sonoma County Executive Director Jeff Nathanson.

Creative Sonoma named ten finalists in each category, recognizing the abundance of artistic talent in the County. In addition to the winners in each category named above, the runners-up, who were also compelling applicants, include:

Literary Runners-up: Sean Marks (Petaluma), non-fiction; Shawna Swetech (Forestville), poetry; Elizabeth Nordlinger (Sonoma), fiction; Cass Pursell (Santa Rosa) fiction; and Loretta Carpio Carr (Sonoma), non-fiction.

Visual Runners-up: Cullen Houser (Rohnert Park), printmaking; Nicole Markoff (Cazadero), interdisciplinary; Jessica Rasmussen (Roseland), mixed media; Judson Smith (Santa Rosa), sculpture; and Andrea Thornton (Santa Rosa), photography.

The Museum of Sonoma County is located at 425 Seventh Street in Santa Rosa. The show will be open from November 22, 2019 through February 2, 2020.

The Artist Awards Endowment Fund at Community Foundation Sonoma County was created by more than 50 donors from 2007-2011 with support from the James Irvine Foundation.

For more information, please contact Kristen Madsen at [Kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org](mailto:Kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org).

*Creative Sonoma, a division of the Sonoma County Economic Development Board is dedicated to supporting and advancing the creative community of Sonoma County.*

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## 2019 Discovered Winners

Literary Artists	Visual Artists
Leilani Clark Santa Rosa <a href="mailto:Clark.leil@gmail.com">Clark.leil@gmail.com</a>	Nicole Irene Anderson Windsor <a href="mailto:nicoleirene.studio@gmail.com">nicoleirene.studio@gmail.com</a>
Ernesto Garay Sebastopol <a href="mailto:Ernesto.garay8@gmail.com">Ernesto.garay8@gmail.com</a>	Annette Goodfriend Sonoma <a href="mailto:annettegoodfriend@gmail.com">annettegoodfriend@gmail.com</a>
Chelsea Rose Kurnick Windsor <a href="mailto:ckurnick@gmail.com">ckurnick@gmail.com</a>	Ash Hay Santa Rosa <a href="mailto:ashhayart@gmail.com">ashhayart@gmail.com</a>
Joy Lanzendorfer Petaluma <a href="mailto:fiction@greenfly.net">fiction@greenfly.net</a>	C.K. Itamura Santa Rosa <a href="mailto:cheryl@peachfarmstudio.com">cheryl@peachfarmstudio.com</a>
Nicole R. Zimmerman Penngrove <a href="mailto:Selkie19@yahoo.com">Selkie19@yahoo.com</a>	Nestor Torres Lupercio Santa Rosa <a href="mailto:nestortlphoto@gmail.com">nestortlphoto@gmail.com</a>
Lead Juror: Ellen Sussman <a href="mailto:ellensussman@gmail.com">ellensussman@gmail.com</a>	Lead Juror: Jeff Nathanson <a href="mailto:jnathanson@museumsc.org">jnathanson@museumsc.org</a>

**PHOTOS:**

Nicole Irene Anderson

*You Surpass Them All*, 2017, oil, casein and graphite on panel



Annette Goodfriend

*Hug*, 2018 – Gypsum, Encaustic & Pigment



Nestor Torres Lupercio

*Amor Eterno* – photograph

