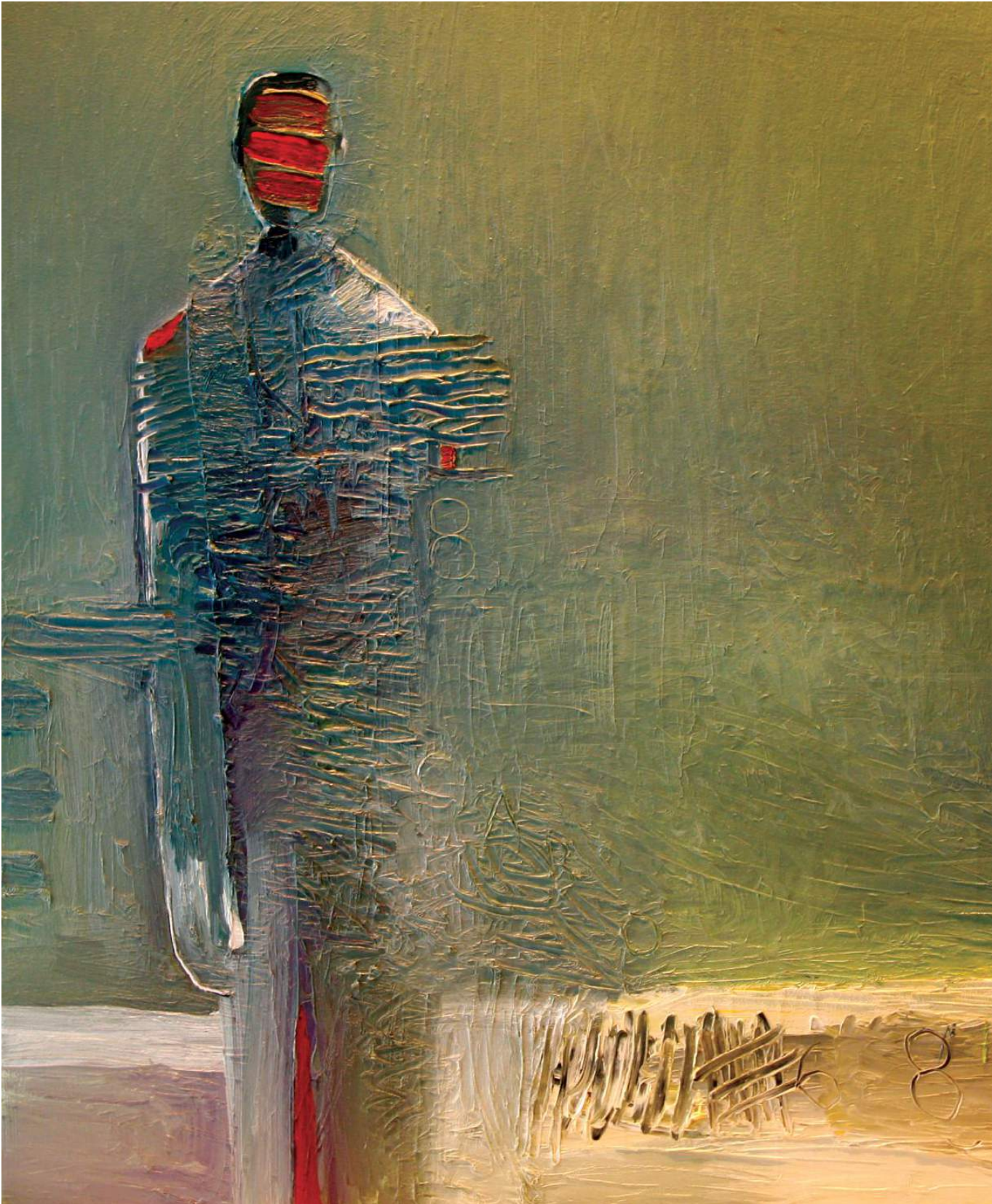


State of the Art

Much like a painting that comes to life with vibrant colors, innovative brush strokes and a devoted stretch of time, the Los Cabos art scene has developed into a unique work that is truly one of a kind.

BY LAURA JENKINS





SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO

San José del Cabo is the centerpiece of the Los Cabos art scene. The Art District here may be only two blocks long, but it's packed with more beauty and culture than most places can hold in a square mile. San José del Cabo is known worldwide as a premier fine arts destination, where enthusiasts and collectors regularly find exceptional pieces to add to their collections. The flagship event in the local art scene is the Art Walk, during which art fans come out in droves to wander down cobblestone streets, meander through galleries and studios and savor snacks and libations. The Art Walk kicks off on the Thursday closest to Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), when the district is decorated with elaborate ornamental altars that memorialize those who have passed away. After the initial event, the Art Walk takes place from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. every Thursday night, from November through June.

The galleries in San José del Cabo offer a distinct variety of artistic flavors. One of the most beloved is the Galería de Ida Victoria, a well-stocked three-level showroom that has been dubbed "the finest gallery south of Los Angeles." You might even call it an artistic menagerie, due to the wide range of creative styles and techniques on display there.

"I always tell people that it's an extremely eclectic collection," says Ida Victoria Gustavson, owner of the gallery and an accomplished artist herself. "I show work that is abstract, whimsical, all the way down to very traditional landscapes and cityscapes. It's really everything in between. We have sculpture, painting, photography and prints. I love to cover all forms of art."

The exhibits are changed every two to four weeks, and the gallery often hosts lectures and workshops



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FRANK ARNOLD | GALLERY
SAN JOSÉ DEL CABO | GALLERY DISTRICT



Women 4 | Bronze | 36" | 96.52. cm

Heat 8 | Oil on Canvas | 66" x 72" | 167.64 cm x 182.88 cm

FRANK ARNOLD • ABSTRACT PAINTER • SCULPTOR

*"San José del Cabo's leading artist... Frank Arnold definitely reminds me of some of my favorites... the colors of **Wonner**, the brush work of **Parks**, and **Oliveira** and the imagination of **Bischoff**. I applaud his talent."*

Joseph Manqueros
Fine Art Editor / Jetset Magazine



amazon.com
Frank Arnold | Art Book





Another San José del Cabo gem is the Frank Arnold gallery. Although Arnold's sculptures and paintings are in collections all over the world, this gallery is full of his creative treasures.

that cater to a diverse audience. A recent nude painting workshop, for example, provided artists with both a live model and a creative space where they could explore the medium. The Galería de Ida Victoria also houses a custom frame shop, which is run by Gustavson's husband, Pete Signorelli.

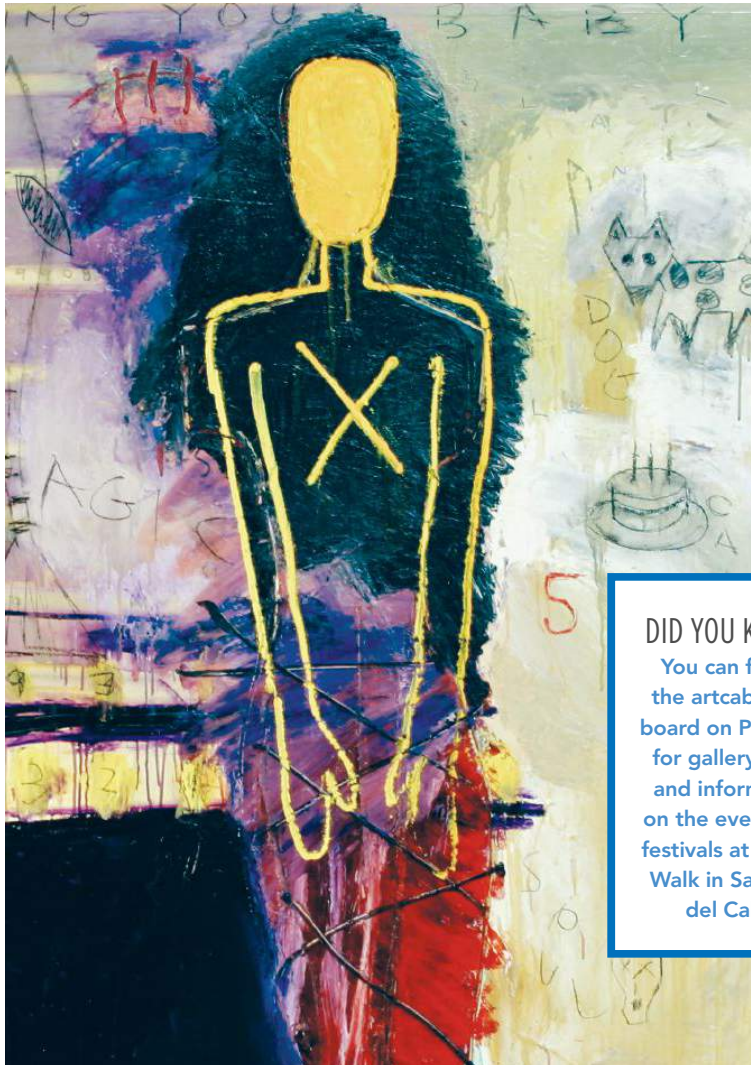
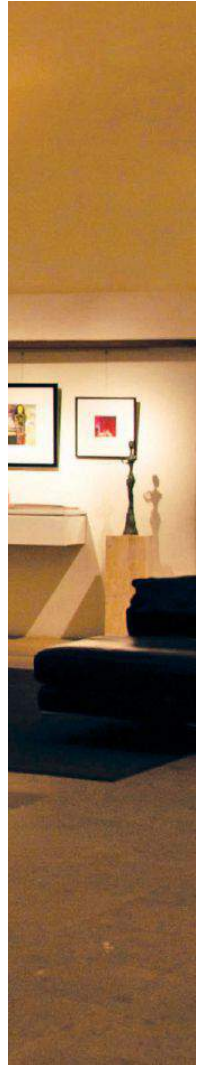
Another San José del Cabo gem is the Frank Arnold gallery. Although Arnold's sculptures and paintings are in collections all over the world, this gallery is full of his creative treasures. The work has been compared to several early abstract expressionists, but his style is truly unique. Stroll through the gallery to experience

Arnold's kaleidoscope of vibrant hues; color is one of his greatest passions.

Some galleries in San José del Cabo specialize in artists from particular regions. For example, Leah Porter of Casa Dahlia represents some of the finest artists from the Baja peninsula. Galería Córscica bills itself as "a window to Mexican contemporary fine art." Old Town Gallery, among the newest in town, displays the art of Mexico as seen through the eyes of celebrated Canadian artists.

THE CORRIDOR

The Corridor, between San José del Cabo and Cabo San Lucas, is



lined with beautiful beach resorts, many of which exhibit art from time to time. Stop in and visit any of the lavish properties; if you don't find an art collection, you'll still be wowed by the architecture and the creativity that went in to the property's design. Esperanza–An Auberge Resort has an open-air oceanfront sculpture garden that houses the work of numerous notable Mexican and Latin American sculptors. Inside you'll find works from several highly celebrated Mexican artists, including Heriberto Juárez, Juan Carlos Breceda and Gabriella Villareal.

CABO SAN LUCAS

The impressive Cultural Pavilion of the Republic serves as a majestic platform to display the art and culture of Mexico. The pavilion has indoor and outdoor theaters where events such as choir and orchestra concerts, dance performances and both national and regional theatrical productions are presented. The complex also has plenty of conference space that can be booked for events like conventions, art exhibits, film screenings or any number of creative programs. There are plans for a museum and a library, both of which will add even

more depth to Cabo San Lucas' burgeoning artistic presence.

TODOS SANTOS

Todos Santos is situated on the Tropic of Cancer, about one hour north of Cabo San Lucas. *Costal Living* once named it as one of the Top Ten Artists' Colonies in North America. Many who have visited this artists' haven will tell you that visiting Todos Santos is something of a magical experience.

It might be fair to say that before San José del Cabo turned into a major presence in the Baja art world, Todos Santos was the hub of the region's artistic activity; some would argue that it still is today.

The cornerstone of the community is the group of working artists who live there full- or part-time. Each February, Todos Santos hosts an Open Studio Tour, where visitors can wander through dozens of artists' working spaces, some of which are in their own homes. The Studio Tour happens as a part of the

Todos Santos Art Festival, which celebrates Mexican culture in the visual and performing arts.

Throughout the year, Todos Santos is home to a dizzying array of artistic events. There are poetry readings, dance performances, sing-alongs, concerts, artist workshops and a host of other informal gatherings. It may be a small, sleepy town — you won't find busy freeways or chain stores anywhere in sight — but it's vibrantly alive with the collective energy of the talented and devoted artists who call it home. If you pay this eclectic community a visit, be sure and seek out both the obvious and the obscure experiences. There's art around every corner; you just have to be attentive to the opportunities that will undoubtedly present themselves. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

You can follow the [artcabo.com](https://www.artcabo.com) board on Pinterest for gallery maps and information on the events and festivals at the Art Walk in San José del Cabo.