

# FOLLOW YOUR PASSION



COASTAL MARINE LAYER by Caryn Owen

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## ARTIST TO WATCH

Ocean researcher-turned-painter Caryn Owen opens up about her evolution as an artist

04



## 9 TO 5 / 5 TO 9

Smithsonian designer by day and artist by night, Anna Joseph shares how she balances it all

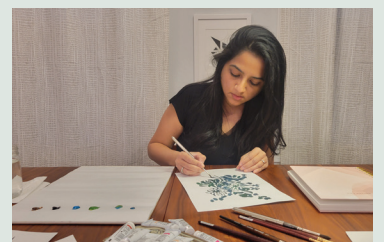
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## TRAVEL GUIDE

Five Los Angeles area-based Minted artists share their must-see spots in the city

08



## ARTIST TO WATCH

Self-taught artist Teju Reval details how her children inspire her artwork

ARTIST TO WATCH

# CARYN OWEN

*The former marine biologist ruminates on the inspiration behind her consistently top-voted pieces, the evolution of her craft, and her unlikely pivot from ocean research to abstract art.*



SPRING BOTANICAL SERIES #3 ART PRINTS by Caryn Owen



— CARYN OWEN  
[minted.com/store/houseofboysart](https://minted.com/store/houseofboysart)



SPRING ON THE COAST by Caryn Owen

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I spent over six years captaining my own research vessel while studying dolphins, and my art is greatly inspired by this.



Caryn in her studio, located in Santa Cruz, California



“**PAINTING** is a deep source of relaxation and meditation,” says abstract artist Caryn Owen. “When I’m focusing on mixing colors on my palette, my chatty mind is clear and calm.” The marine biologist-turned-painter began painting as a hobby in 2005. Caryn continued honing her craft over the next 10 years, which involved pulling money from her retirement fund to build a studio in the backyard of her Santa Cruz, California home.

**INITIALLY**, her artistic style was purely abstract, pulling color inspiration from her local coastlines but without focusing on form. Upon experiencing a sudden loss, her style shifted. “In 2016, following the death of my father, I turned inward while mourning him and began to create abstract seascapes. I didn’t intend to change my style, but my father loved being outside, in his garden and hiking, and these landscapes just started to develop on my canvas.”

**THOUGH** she ultimately left her marine biology career to pursue art full-time, her technique is also informed by the years she spent on the ocean. “I recognized that my seascapes are always depicted from the perspective of a boat offshore, looking back onshore at the coastline,” Caryn says. “I spent over six years captaining my own research vessel while studying dolphins, and my art is greatly inspired by this view.”

**MUCH** like her style, her contributions as a Minted artist have also evolved. Recently, she started creating pieces for Direct From Artist, a curated marketplace of original art, decor, and gifts. “I personally ship each piece and send them off through my studio, so I can individually thank each customer who purchases my art,” she says, noting that she’s eager to share her creations with a new audience.

9 TO 5 / 5 TO 9

# ANNA JOSEPH

*Tell us about your day job as a Smithsonian architectural professional.*

I'm a retail designer at the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. My work entails designing stores, pop-ups, restaurants, cafes, theaters, and back-of-house spaces at the institution's national museums.

*Paint us a picture of what a day in your life looks like.*

I live in a darling condo near a lake, so my day starts with a run around it. A typical work day is a mix of design meetings, museum site visits, reviewing active construction projects, and creating drawing sets for upcoming projects. While I enjoy the social aspect and discipline at my day job, showing up for art brings me balance. After work, I tune in to my world of creative freedom.

*What did your earliest artistic expressions look like?*

I grew up in a big, happy family, so being behind a camera or in front of a sketchbook always drew me closer to my loved ones. The first time I explored my interest in art was around age nine. I observed my dad's frustration at a particular task and then drew it as a way to make light of the situation. Upon seeing how accurately I captured his emotion, his anger diffused almost immediately. He has encouraged me to stick with art ever since.



*When she's not designing bold Smithsonian retail spaces, Anna Joseph is creating art inspired by her affinity for modern architecture and appreciation for human emotion.*



— ANNA JOSEPH  
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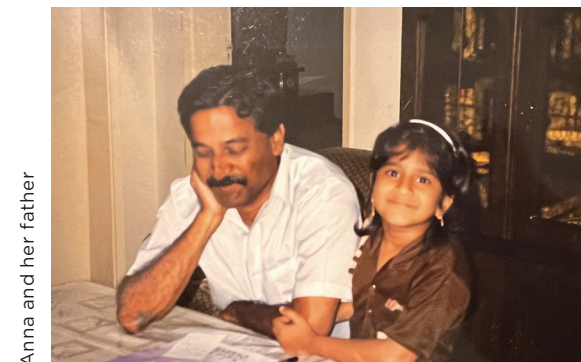
ALL IS CALM ALL IS BRIGHT  
by Anna Joseph



DISNEY MINIMALIST MICKEY MOUSE  
by Anna Joseph



UNCOVER by Anna Joseph



Anna and her father



A sketch  
from Anna's  
grandfather



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My mom used to sew clothes for us at night as a hobby while also taking care of the family and working a day job as a lab technologist—my family normalized the 9 to 5/5 to 9 lifestyle.

*What are your primary sources of inspiration as an artist?*

My primary sources of inspiration are my family, nature, and life experiences. Human emotion has been my biggest muse. I never met my grandfather, but my mom kept his memory alive through storytelling and sharing his artwork. I was fascinated by stories of him drawing designs on my grandma's sarees, singing and playing multiple instruments at church, and tapping into his creativity when he wasn't working as an Air Force officer. My mom used to sew clothes for us at night as a hobby while also taking care of the family and working a day job as a lab technologist—my family normalized the 9 to 5/5 to 9 lifestyle.

*In what other ways is art present in your life?*

I am a third-culture kid who periodically struggles with a sense of belonging. What has ultimately brought me comfort during low points is carrying a creative light in me wherever I go. Art proved to be life for me. When feelings get strong, a canvas or a screen gives me emotional resonance every time I pick up a brush.

[MINTED.COM/STORE/ANNAJOSEPH](https://minted.com/store/annajoseph)

# THE MINTED TRAVEL GUIDE TO LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles is an artist's dream. Between the coastal scenery, iconic performance venues, rich cultural landmarks, and eclectic cuisine, this bustling hub is ripe with inspiration. We tapped our Los Angeles-based artist community for their go-to dining spots, attractions, and hidden gems to guide your next visit to the city.

## 01 DENISE CREW The Broad (Downtown Los Angeles)



"MY FAVORITE MUSEUM with all of my favorite artists—Basquiat, Twombly, and Rauschenberg."



MINTED.COM/STORE/DENISECREW

## 02 ASPACIA KUSULAS The Eames House (Pacific Palisades)



"I LOVE MIDCENTURY DESIGN overall. The Eames House is a great place to visit and have a little picnic."

MINTED.COM/STORE/ASPACIA

## 03 KAMALA NAHAS Kogi Taqueria Truck (Palms)



"THIS IS EXACTLY what Southern California means to me—all the best of our ethnic diversity rolled into one."



MINTED.COM/STORE/KAMALANAHAS

## 04 BECKY NIMOY Korean Bell of Friendship (San Pedro)



"THE KOREAN FRIENDSHIP BELL is a local treasure that we can come to for free to picnic, fly kites, and enjoy views of the Pacific Ocean and Catalina Island. Many special events are held here, like the ringing of the bell once a month, Juneteenth celebrations, and my son's elementary graduation ceremony."

The pavilion itself is painted in a beautiful Dancheong style with cinnabar and blue-green patterns that make you feel like you're in Korea.



MINTED.COM/STORE/BECKYNIMOY

## 05 REBECCA RUETH The Huntington (Pasadena)



"THE HUNTINGTON GARDENS are my escape. They always make me feel like I've traveled back in time on vacation."



MINTED.COM/STORE/REBECCARUETH

## 06 KAMALA NAHAS The PCH (Santa Monica to Malibu)



"BREATHTAKING DRIVE, accessible beaches, and fun spots along the way. Must stops include Neptunes Net for clam chowder or fish and chips, Point Dume for sunsets, Leo Carillo for great tide pools, El Matador (or El Mat, as we call it) for beautiful and iconic rock formations."

You can't go wrong with any of the stops along this stretch of the PCH—much of my work for Minted was shot along this drive.



MINTED.COM/STORE/KAMALANAHAS

ARTIST TO WATCH

TEJU  
REVAL

**FOR TEJU REVAL**, career aspirations didn’t always involve drawing, painting, or even Photoshop. Born and raised in India, she studied computer engineering in the U.K. before ultimately landing a job in the financial services industry. “Everything was going as planned until I realized I didn’t want to write software codes or recruit people for the rest of my life,” Teju says, “I had to do something different.” After moving to the U.S. and having her first child, she decided to wholeheartedly pursue her passion: art and design.

**AFTER** filling her calendar with online classes, art shows, and exhibitions, Teju stumbled upon Minted’s artist challenges. Viewing them as a great way to hone her craft, she became hooked. She was awarded one of her most notable—and meaningful—challenge wins in 2019. Her piece “Alphabet Dinos,” which was inspired by her oldest son’s fascination with dinosaurs, won the Minted x PBTeen challenge. This source of inspiration soon became a pattern—“Ocean Layers” was inspired by his interest in sea creatures and “Space Alphabet” by her youngest son’s aspiration to become an astronaut. “I’m always drawing their world!” Teju says, adding, “My kids are my best critics, and they don’t hesitate to give feedback, like correcting me on how a shark does or doesn’t look.”

**FLASH-FORWARD** to today. Between working a 9-to-5 as a baby apparel designer, caring for her family, and working on her art after-hours, her plate is arguably full. You can find her designs on holiday cards, wedding stationery, notebooks, and children’s art, to name a few categories.



— TEJU REVAL  
[minted.com/store/tejureval](https://minted.com/store/tejureval)

*The self-taught, multi-disciplinary artist opens up about her foray into design and the role her children play in her creative process.*



BOLD FLORALS by Teju Reval



SPACE ALPHABET by Teju Reval



Teju with her sons,  
Atharv and Ved, in  
New York City