

NEW EXHIBITION at OCCCA

BY JULIE LEAH | PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY ORANGE COUNTY CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

Now that Orange County is moving to Orange Tier it's a welcome reprieve to experience art up close again. This long hibernation has felt like a Salvador Dali painting where the days have folded and bent into each other, and the sense of time itself has changed. Yet, we have weathered the pain and loss from it.

The exhibition, *Collaborate, Create and Heal* by Andrea Moni and Yuri Boyko is a much needed healing tonic. It's the first open exhibition for OCCCA since the Pandemic. A long time coming. Yet, OCCCA like other art institutions, has held Zoom art receptions. No matter how wonderful the Zoom, it always has a note of intangibility that more often than not leaves one longing for greater connection.

With this show and other openings in the Orange Tier, we get to experience so many things again. But with new and fresh eyes...I can't wait for this time to revive the senses.

In the *Collaborate, Create and Heal* art exhibition, both artists explore the subject of healing. While they work in two different disciplines, painting and photography, the experience of their art together is like discovering an archaeological excavation primed and displayed in a museum. We see the past and bits of ourselves, and are moved beyond that to see the souls transforming the future.

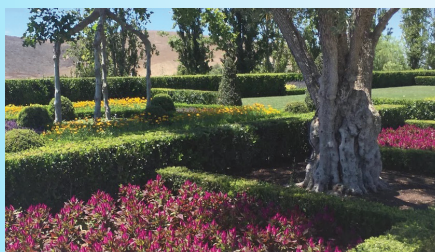
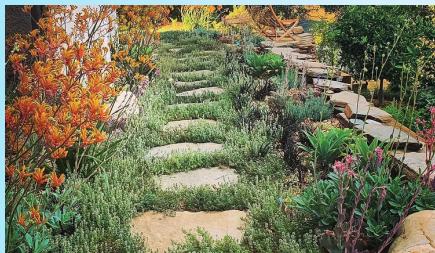
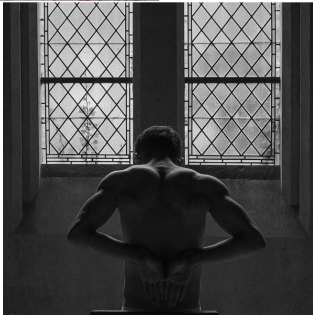
The artist, *Andrea Moni*, finds beauty in the broken and imperfect. In 2015, she suffered a serious burn accident and turned her creative gaze inward. Since then, she's collaboratively worked with others who have experienced trauma. She sets up a studio at the water's edge with her participant. Together they paint with a layering of natural earth pigments and use the motions of the waves. The process becomes an intimate ritual where memories of traumatic experiences are symbolically washed away. Later Andrea uses various painterly techniques to unearth mysterious, hidden figures and ciphers of pain from the psyche.

Yuri Boyko, a multidisciplinary Los Angeles based artist whose work focuses on the deconstruction of identity and explores states of loss and triumph, pain and pleasure. The process of individuation is expressed in his moody photographs that mingle the sacred with the profane.

Collaborate, Create and Heal Exhibition is open May 1- May 30, 2021 at OCCCA. Visit the show Friday and Saturday 12 to 5 PM throughout the month or on an appointment basis. For an appointment, info.occca@gmail.com.

All safety protocols are in place, including wearing a mask.

For more information visit OCCCA: www.occca.org, Orange County Center for Contemporary Art (OCCCA), 117 North Sycamore Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701 - Phone: 714-667-1517



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