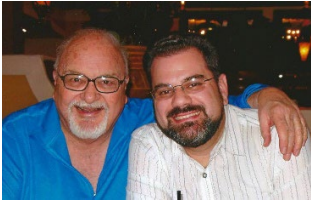


## SUMMER OF LOVE - ARTISTS BIOS



**George Phelps Collection/Represented by son David Phelps**

We're honored to highlight the work of George Charles Phelps, an amateur artist that used photography as a medium for creative expression. While he recently passed in May, his son David continues his father's wishes to showcase his body of work. While known for his painting of small sculptures, much of Phelps' work includes art photography that goes beyond merely capturing what is in front of the camera. His pictures are heavily influenced by Middle Eastern and Eastern European culture; developed while dancing in Bulgarian and Hungarian folk groups in the 70's and 80's. A 42-year veteran of the United States Postal Service, George Phelps leaves a legacy of 3 children and 6 grandchildren. This is posthumously his second show.



**Danny Ramirez/@dannyrcreates**

Is an artist from Los Angeles. After studying drawing and painting at LAMC he went on to paint murals for Compton Unified School District. After some time painting murals, his desire to find a more personal expression lead him back to school. He went on to study at GNOMON in Hollywood where he built a solid foundation in drawing and design, then under the Watts Atelier of the Arts which nurtured his love of classical portraiture. He later returned to LAMC to inject a more modern conceptualization of art ideas into his classically trained drawing and painting technique.

Today he works primarily in oils but also utilizes other media including acrylic paint, watercolors, ink, graphite, charcoal, and chalk. His work focuses on the exploration of identity and perceived self, utilizing the lens of portraiture and the negotiation between artist, the work, and the viewer to reveal the fluidity of interpretation.

His more recent works explore the idea of "Formlessness", surveying the in between states, transitions and non-binary being.



**Andrew C. Phan/@andrewcphan**

I am a Los Angeles-based visual artist. Growing up in an evolving digital landscape led to my discovery of photography and filmmaking. Mixed with traveling at a young age, I developed a desire to explore new places and document stories outside my hometown. My goal is to examine the intricacies of human relationships with others, nature, and self across the globe through a first-generation Vietnamese American lens. Blending cinema and street photography, my photographs offer observers a window into a frozen moment of raw, unfiltered emotions.

These photographs belong to a series that explores Vietnam around its national holiday, Reunification Day. A fitting title for my trip, a return to Vietnam in my mid-20s following a ten-year absence. This set focuses on joy, both locals and travelers.

When not crafting photos, I'm exploring my own and other cultures in the kitchen through food.



**Cristina Munoz Brown/@cristina\_m\_brown**

A first generation Mexican American ofrenda and mixed media artist who lives in Los Angeles. Graduating with a BFA from California State University, Northridge in 2004. It was at Cal State Northridge where she developed her abstract style of art and learned about ofrendas and altar making. Every year since, she has participated in community ofrendas as well as creating a home ofrenda for Dia de Los Muertos honoring the lives of over 100 family members, friends and pets.

Currently working in the fashion industry- she specializes in feathers and is a master in her craft, serving the Arts & Entertainment Industry, working with Costume Designers, Fashion Ateliers, Fine and Cultural Artists.

“Every artistic endeavor is approached differently, where some of the time the project guides itself! I love the mystery of not knowing what I might end up with!”



**Cody TheCreative/@codythecreative**

As an artist, I carry a powerful message tattooed on my hands: 'Create to inspire; inspire to create.' These words serve as more than a mantra; they are the embodiment of my purpose – to inspire people to create the lives they truly desire, to see the world through their own lens, and in turn, cultivate a happier, more fulfilled existence for us all. LoveKey is a primary extension of this, spreading love one key at a time.

Through murals, installations, brand partnerships, and non-profit collaborations LoveKey becomes a catalyst for change. Vibrant murals remind us of love's power as we unite behind one image. Installations engage us around one theme. Brand partnerships amplify the message to wider audiences. Collaborations with non-profits enable meaningful impact. Through these avenues and more, we co-create a world where love prevails over fear and animosity. By transcending boundaries, unlocking hearts, and inspiring change LoveKey becomes the foundation for a love-infused reality we build together along the way, and a symbol of compassion, understanding, and a brighter future for all.



**Jeanette Benitez @sfvalleyphotos**

Is a photographer based in the San Fernando Valley. She is passionate about documenting the environment around her. The images displayed focus on people and their actions in the summer. One photo displays a group of friends out enjoying their chrome frame lowrider bikes as they walk the streets of LA. The following two photos are individuals selling cold ice cream and refreshments waiting for customers in the summer heat.



**Monica Moran/@monicathecreativebeast**

(aka @monicathecreativebeast) is a multi-passionate creative and a mixed-media artist with a focus on Book Arts, from hand bound notebooks and journals (often made with recycled materials), original artist books constructed from a variety of structures and forms, and she loves to alter old books to give them new life.

As a book artist, Monica's creations are often humorous and whimsical even as they speak to social inequities in the world. She has been an active participant in the online Instagram artist book challenge, "Are You Book Enough", since late 2017, creating over 60 artist books to date. Her artist books have been on exhibit at Studio Channel Islands in Camarillo and Carter Sexton Artist Materials art supply store in Valley Village.

Since the pandemic, Monica has added blackout art to her repertoire of book art skills, using old book pages to generate found poetry or fast fiction. Her blackout art often includes imagery that connects to the new narratives she creates on the book page. The sun is a favorite motif, as her contributions for "Summer of Love" illustrate.



**Phil/@writingonthewalls\_la**

First Mural as an Art class student in '85, which led to collecting Art from San Fernando Valley swap meets, and the Venice Beach boardwalk in the 90's. Developed large scale Murals, and arts programs in the 90's – 00's. These days, I combine my background in Psychology, live event A/V & Lighting production ('05 – now), and community development into Mural and Art Show endeavors through Writing on the Walls, llc. Photography has been a decades long passion, that I am eternally grateful to Mike and Dessirin of the 818 Community Darkroom for helping me gain confidence to show through pictures, the world I see and the beauty in it.

### **Kyle Kellerup/@kylesfilm.digital**

Is a film photographer based in the Los Angeles/ San Diego area. Something these photos have in common that cannot be captured is the time, dedication, and lack of sleep it took to get all of these images. Rather than get a hotel and spend a few days shooting a location, Kyle would drive to the location

after work in order to have as much sunlight as possible to shoot the next day. After shooting, he'd spend hours driving back home. These shots are of the people and places he's come across.

### **Nadia/@bbygirlnadia**

Is a recent graduate from California State University Northridge, with a passion for poetry and an entrepreneurial spirit. As she unveils a hidden passion for art, Nadia looks forward to integrating her poetry into her stencil and a medium by artwork. With dreams of opening her own business one day, she's eager to explore the intersection of art and creativity. Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, the SFV will forever hold a special significance in her heart, inspiring her artistic endeavors

### **Michael Morfin aka "Morf"/ @Morpatron**

Is a Screen Printer/Painter/Graphic designer born and raised in Sylmar Ca.

As a Lifeguard at Richie Valens Park in the summer of 2013, I decided to buy a used printing press. I saved up half of my earnings that summer and bought it. Since then I've worked at Print Shops for over 6 years learning how to print and graphics side of things while taking art classes at mission college.

Then pandemic happened. Truly a blessing in disguise, I lost my job! Shortly after I met a Muralist he taught me how to make pounce transfers for his murals. He gave me his broken pounce machine as payment, I ended up fixing the pounce machine. Since then I've been assisting muralists around Los Angeles. I am still a graphic designer and I still print shirts. Power to those who believe in the beauty of their dream.

### **Baruk/@hermit\_one**

Hermit one is a Mexican born artist raised in the San Fernando valley, grew up in the era of Saturday morning cartoons, 80s and 90s nostalgia, influenced by skateboarding, comic books, west coast graffiti art and gang writing culture. A DIY self-taught artist, breaking the norms on what traditional fine art is.

### **Francisco Jacobo/@franciscojacobos\_**

A Film Photographer that primarily shoots black and white film. Based in the San Fernando Valley Area in California, and has a portfolio of street, landscape and architectural photography of California's landmarks. All prints are made locally from 818 Community Darkroom.

Synopsis: Here is a recent landscape project I did in Catalina Island. I got access to special parts of the island and tried taking the best pictures with my film camera. Nature has always allowed me to see things in a new perspective, I translated my perspective into photographs. In the process I can really see my spiritual eye opening the further I go into my roll.