

PRESS RELEASE

“Surfing Angels & The Ocean of Love” by Tobey Crockett
One person painting exhibition at Bru Coffeehouse in month of August

Bru Coffeehouse 5760 El Camino Real, Atascadero, CA 805-464-5007
<https://www.brucoffeehouse.com/>

Artist, writer and teacher Tobey Crockett PhD is pleased to announce that her one person painting show “Surfing Angels & The Ocean of Love” will be on view at the Bru coffeehouse through the entire month of August. An opening party is scheduled for Sunday, August 6th, from 3-5 pm.

Crockett likes to say that angels may be among us at any time - if only we have the hearts and eyes to see them. And these angels are hitting the beach!!

Trained as an art historian and art critic, Crockett revisits classical themes from art history but re-imagines them with a playful, celebratory spin. This veritable carnival of angels runs the gamut from a re-imagined Virgin of Guadalupe with a surfboard behind her to a surfing Queen of Heaven inspired by Marilyn Monroe. Pop culture icons such as a Big Yellow Barbie, and various classic surf images are drawn from distant shores such as Thailand and Tahiti.

Many of the paintings are quite large, painted in vibrant colors and an expressive style all her own. Crockett alternates flat matte textures with more heavily applied swaths of color, and is influenced by such diverse artists as Andy Warhol, Jean Michel Basquiat and Francis Picabia. She likes to draw on memories of childhood fun, as well as comic books, advertising and vintage coloring books for inspiration. The show presents 16 paintings, most of the them from 2017.

Having grown up in a family of artists and been involved in the New York City's East Village art scene as a very young woman, Crockett went on to develop her burgeoning art criticism career in Los Angeles and Europe, before relocating to the Central Coast back in 2004. She lives in Morro Bay with her husband, the writer Mark Onspaugh.

Crockett leads a metaphysical discussion group in the Garden Chapel at Coalesce in Morro Bay, where angels and other spiritual topics are explored in a deep dive with historical and philosophical underpinnings. A writer, she recently won first place for her poem “Venus On The Half Shell” in the Morro Bay National Estuary Poetry competition, and has a short story published in the new anthology *The Forsaken*, edited by Onspaugh and Joe McKinney, from publisher Cemetery Dance. She also edits and coaches writers on their work, and teaches a variety of long-distance classes.

For more info and pictures, contact: Tobey Crockett PhD 805 225 1083 www.tobeycrockett.com/