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JUNE 12, 2019 • NO. 17

NATASHA SHORO: EVOKING THE SPLENDOR OF NATURE

BY: LIZ GOLDNER

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ON COVER: Natasha Shoro • Illuminate

For all inquires: publisher@irvineweekly.com

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SPRING BREEZE - BY NATASHA SHORO

NATASHA SHORO: EVOKING THE SPLENDOR OF NATURE

ARTIST'S ABSTRACT PAINTINGS INCORPORATE HER EXPERIENCES LIVING ON FOUR CONTINENTS.

BY: LIZ GOLDNER

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: NATASHA SHORO

Natasha Shoro approaches her abstract expressionist paintings intuitively. Working in her Irvine home studio, listening to exotic dance music, she picks up her brushes and palette knives, dips them into brightly colored paints, and incorporates collage elements, some with South Asian textile designs. Moving joyously to dance music, she paints swirls, biomorphic shapes and intricate patterning onto her canvases. The results are large multicolored artworks, infused with symbols and influences from her life, and often inspired by the forces of nature.

In an interview in her contemporary home, with her magnificent artworks displayed throughout, Shoro explains that the abstract paintings of Helen Frankenthaler, Morris Louis, Julie Mehretu and Paul Jenkins have influenced her to follow her own bliss as an artist. She is particularly enamored with these painters' exploration of color, form and fluidity.

Shoro's childhood influences on her art have included residing in four continents and learning about diverse cultures; observing aerial landscapes from airplane windows as she traveled widely; and inspiration by her parents. "My mother and father played a big role in encouraging me to follow my dreams and passions to paint," she says, adding that her mother's own fashion and fabric designs continue to inspire her.

Yet the iconography in her paintings, while not specific to any culture, references symbols from nature. Her painting "Illuminate" (2019) incorporates broad swaths of reds, oranges and purples, suggesting the energy, passion and light-giving properties of fire. "Spring Breeze" (2019), featuring painterly bands in deep greens, yellows and blues, with colors merging into each other, symbolizes the burst of spring, along with the calming effects of flowing water. "Super Bloom" (2019), with its overlapping oranges, yellows and deeper earth tones, brings viewers to the warmth of the earth and the air during the summer. These paintings are displayed in her current Soka University exhibition (see below).

Having grown up in Africa (Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo and Monrovia, Liberia), Europe (Paris, Lyon, Geneva, Switzerland), Pakistan and the United States, and speaking English, French and Urdu, Shoro synthesizes her multi-cultural identity through spontaneous art making. With her exposure



RISING 1, FLOATING, RISING 2 · BY NATASHA SHORO

to several cultures and languages, and understanding that the borders dividing us are mere constructs, she manifests nature's universal majesty in her work, rather than creating images of any particular culture.

Shoro explains, "I was born in Ithaca to Pakistani parents, Naem and Farida Mirza. My father was a hotelier and his job transferred him from one intercontinental hotel to another. I grew up living in hotels the first 13 years of my life – an interesting and deeply moving journey."

Discussing the influence of her architect husband, Khurram, Shoro says, "He was my best friend in high school in Karachi. I was inspired by his smile and encouraging and supportive nature. He and I would work in the art studio for hours. He created three-dimensional black and white drawings, and I created two-dimensional paintings in color. My connection of art to architecture began when we started our careers together."

Shoro's higher education years were as multifaceted as her childhood. "In 1984, while living in Southern California, I attended Cal State Long Beach and El Camino College in Torrance. Then I got married and transferred with my husband to Iowa State University, where I completed my BFA in graphic design and fine arts. I was in the honors programs and received grants to create new bodies of work, including 'Riding the Waves' of mixed media paintings."

"When I graduated in 1991, my daughter Anushe was 9 months old, and we were expecting our son Jibraan. Soon after, we moved to Karachi, where I worked on freelance illustration and graphic design for multinational projects, and exhibited my work in solo and group shows. I had my first solo exhibition in 1993 at Pakistan American

Cultural Center, inaugurated by the counsel general of the U.S. in Pakistan." (Jibraan was born there in 1991, and the couple's daughter Elahe was born there in 1995.)

"We moved back to Southern California in 1999, settling in Irvine," Shoro continues. "I taught art at the Irvine Fine Arts Center, Irvine Valley and Saddleback Colleges. As I love both teaching

Soka University in 2007, and my mother-daughter show, 'Essence of Being,' in collaboration with my daughter Anushe's photography, also at Soka in 2016."

Shoro also teaches painting, color and design at Orange Coast College, and art history and appreciation at Coastline College. Drawing on her own experiences as an art student, she explains,

reflected in her relationship with her daughter Anushe, a photographer and poet. The following poem by Anushe extols that relationship; "Each moment / I live with her / reminds me of being / With her warm smile / She cradles me / and teaches me / living is loving / She ignites hearts / my Sol / I am / Blooming."

Shoro has won many awards for her artwork, has exhibited in galleries throughout Southern California and in Iowa and Pakistan, and in the Torrance Art Museum, San Diego Art Museum and Pacific Asia Museum.

Her current exhibition, "Earth, Air, Fire & Water," is at Soka University's Founders Hall Art Gallery, www.soka.edu, running through August 31.

Shoro writes about this show, "My love for nature has led me to live in the moment and thus be aware of my inner being and emotion. My emotions respond to the elements: earth, air, fire and water, which are themes prominent to my work. This body of work in particular celebrates my emotional relationship with nature and it is through these elements that I am able to unfold my inner being."

Join Natasha Shoro and her daughter, Anushe, in Soka University's Founders Hall Art Gallery from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the following dates for a discussion of the exhibition and their book, **The Essence of Being** – along with a mindful meditation.

- Thursday, June 13 - Riding the Waves & Fluidity of the Floating Mind
- Thursday, July 11 - Grounding Awareness
- Thursday, August 29 - Finding your Inner Flame

www.natashashoro.com



NATASHA SHORO

and creating art, I pursued graduate studies in drawing, painting, printmaking and multimedia techniques at Cal State Fullerton, receiving my MFA there in 2006."

"Since 1991, my career has progressed from one body of work to the next. Key events include having my work shown at Marion Meyer Fine Art, creating my MFA show in 2005, mounting my exhibitions, 'Spatial Identity Series' at

"I have gained tremendous support from my teachers and professors. They guided, mentored and inspired me to dream and think outside of the box for limitless growth. As they helped me gain confidence as a practicing fine artist, my goal today is to inspire my students to dream, create and make their mark in this beautiful world.

Shoro's appreciation for her many life experiences and desire to give back are



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WINE LAB

5 BEST LOCAL WINE BARS

**WINE WEDNESDAY OR ROMANTIC DATE NIGHT,
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG SIPPING AT THESE SPOTS.**

BY: ARIELLE ROUDE

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: FEATURED RESTAURANT

Are you looking for a relaxing spot to enjoy a nice glass of wine? A date night for a wine connoisseur? Or are you trying to turn Wine Wednesday into a daily routine? Look no further and check out these five local wine spots to get your red, white and rosé fix on!

Bacchus Bar and Bistro

Bacchus Bar and Bistro is the perfect neighborhood hangout spot to have a nice glass of wine. Here you can try one of the 50 wines they offer by the glass. Or if you are looking to commit to a bottle, you can choose from over 200 bottles to buy and try.



THE LOST VINE

With such an extensive collection, Bacchus offers the perfect wine for every occasion. They even have a wine club, so the experience doesn't have to stop after your first visit. By becoming a Wine Club member, you get to experience individual quarterly bottles of wine that can include two bottles of red, one bottle of red and white, or a bottle of gold red. Being a member also comes with lots of other amazing perks such as 10

percent off local wines, food and the bar and getting invited to their quarterly wine parties. Go and check out Bacchus Bar and Bistro and be a part of their local wine family today!
6735 Quail Hill Pkwy, Irvine

Wine Lab

Located in Costa Mesa's anti-mall, Wine Lab is the perfect combination of modern and fresh. It offers two ways to get your wine fix. The first is by ordering one of their wine flights. Presented in their signature test tubs, Wine Lab offers three to six tastings tubes that showcase different themes of wine. Although



ORANGE COAST WINERY

reds. Wine Lab also offers a variety of food to go with your wine including amazing cheeses and meats where you and your friends can build your cheese and charcuterie

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FOOD

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The Lost Vine

The Lost Vine proves that coffee and wine are a match made in heaven. Located right next to their coffee shop The Lost Bean, The Lost Vine is the perfect weeknight hideaway for a great glass of wine. This sustainable wine bar has a list this is always rotating so you will never be bored. The Lost Vine's relaxed atmosphere is embedded with fun themed nights for their customers to enjoy. Kick off the week on Tuesday with their Five Tastings at Five Deal. Here you will be able to enjoy generous tasting pours of 5 wines for only \$12. The Lost Vine also has a fantastic Wine Wednesday deal where if you buy a bottle of wine, your second bottle comes in at 50 percent off. Now that is a wine steal!! On top of all of their amazing wine deals, you can always sit back and relax to the live music that plays Wednesday-Saturday nights. Make your weeknights more fun by stopping by The Lost Vine. 13011 Newport Ave., Tustin

Orange Coast Winery

If you are looking for a more traditional winery experience to enjoy a glass of vino, Orange Coast Winery has got you covered. Orange Coast Winery offers the experience of a traditional tasting room that allows both members and non-members to enjoy a variety of wine tastings. Their team is very knowledgeable on all of their wines and are there to help you not only learn but find your perfect blend to sip on. If you're not looking to commit to becoming a member of a winery just yet, Orange Coast Winery offers tons of wonderful Groupon deals that let you enjoy different tastings. Their classic tastings usually include six glasses of a variety of red, whites, and roses. If you are ready to jump on the wine train and become a member, you will get to experience tons of exclusive deals including free cheese boards, guests, and significant discounts off wine purchases. Join the club and visit Orange Coast Winery. 869 W. 16th St., Newport Beach

The Winery Restaurant and Wine Bar

Make wine night date night at The Winery Restaurant and Wine Bar. This upscale dining experience comes with a side of first-class wines to drink and enjoy. Wine country

becomes the focal point of all their menus, allowing every course and every meal to have the perfect counterpart in their magnificent wine cellar. The Winery's wine list includes over 650 bottles that change weekly.

They even take their wine process one step further by ensuring that all of their wines have a home in their climate-controlled cellars. The Winery is the ultimate wine and dining experience. Bring in your loved one

for an evening of elegance, incredible food, and even better wine at The Winery Restaurant and Wine Bar. 3131 W. Coast Hwy, Newport Beach & 2647 Park Ave., Tustin



THE WINERY



MAVERICK SABRE • BY KEZCOO

SMOKIN' GROOVES 2019 IS HERE

YOUR CHEAT SHEET TO WHICH ARTISTS TO CATCH AT THE LONG BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL.

BY: SHIRLEY JU

PHOTOS COURTESY OF: EACH MUSICIAN

Smokin' Grooves 2019 arrives in Long Beach at the perfect timing. Kicking off the summer on a high note, this one-day festival taking place on June 15, 2019 brings together the biggest names in R&B and hip-hop, including Usher, Erykah Badu, Ella Mai, Daniel Caesar, Kali Uchis, Common and more.

Presented by GoldenVoice, this extremely talented and diverse lineup

will take over the Queen Mary Events Park – serving as GV's fifth festival this year. After the success of last year's Smokin' Grooves (which included headliners Erykah Badu, Miguel and Jhene Aiko), music-lovers can once again look forward to a fun-filled day of live performances, food and friendship.

If you're wondering how long Smokin' Grooves has been around, it's actually

a decade-and-a-half old. The tour took a slight hiatus in 1998, and returned in 2002 for a short run. Now, 2019 yields one of the most enticing lineups yet.

The venue will open its doors at 11 a.m., with all ages welcome. Whether you're an OG, a teenager, or even a parent with a toddler, there will be something for everyone at this event.

The good news is children under 5 years of age can enter for free (accom-

panied by an adult). If you're worried about the weather, the show goes on rain or shine.

Speaking on the festival, London recording artist Maverick Sabre states, "Really looking forward to my performance this year at Smokin' Grooves, it's my first American festival and we're going to bring a mix of all the flavours from my recent album *When I Wake Up*, and the best bits of my first two records. See you there!"

With both old school names and newcomers, Irvine Weekly has put together a cheat sheet for some of our favorite artists on the bill. Tickets start at \$125 for general admission and can be purchased at SmokinGroovesFest.com. Peep our picks below

Ari Lennox

Ari Lennox is Dreamville's first lady. Of course, if J. Cole fucks with you, you must be extremely talented. The Washington, D.C. singer-songwriter is known for her distinct, sharp, yet enchanting voice. Her delivery is fierce, with lyrics telling first-person experiences of things we all go through in life: love, lust, and all the in between.

"Shea Butter Baby" is Ari & J. Cole's latest collab, featured in the latest *Creed II*. This one hits the soul.

Common

Common will forever go down in as one of the most well-respected emcees in the rap game. The Chicago legend has consistently released meaningful and substantial records for the masses, making it a point to push the culture forward in a positive light. In addition to the music, his efforts in activism do not go unnoticed.

"Come Close" featuring Mary J. Blige is just one of the many classics, filled with romance, emotion and love.

Daniel Caesar

From Canada, there's Drake, and then there's Daniel Caesar. If you love R&B, he's here to cure your soul. The singer-songwriter blew up (seemingly out of nowhere) with the release of his debut album *Freudian*, which hails standout singles "Best Part" featuring H.E.R. and "Get You" featuring Kali Uchis. No matter what the situation, these soulful ballads will put you in the mood to think about that special someone.

In the official music video for "Get You" (which clocks in at over 83 million views on YouTube), Daniel is

MUSIC

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seen crooning the lyrics in front of an intimate crowd, with clips of lovebirds sprinkled throughout.

Erykah Badu

Queen Badu on any festival lineup is lit. The legendary R&B singer never disappoints when it comes to her live performances. Her catalog of hits stems from the '90s to the early 2000s, and includes "On & On," "Window Seat," "Love Of My Life," and way more. Among this new generation of R&B and trap hip-hop, Badu continues to serve as a huge influence.

And if you're a movie guru, you may have seen her recently on the big screen in *Little*.

Ella Mai

Ella Mai successfully proved time and time again that she's far more than her debut single "Boo'd Up," which had every male and female belching the lyrics from all across the world. The record's official music video currently hails over 367 million views on YouTube alone, in addition to its Grammy snatch for Best R&B Song.

At the tail end of last year, the English singer-songwriter unleashed her self-titled debut album, with stand-out singles "Shot Clock," "Trip," and "'Whatchamacallit" (featuring Chris Brown).

Kali Uchis

"After The Storm" by Kali Uchis and Tyler, The Creator will forever have audiences swaying side to side. Kali's infectious vocals and enchanting charm blesses fans all across the world. The Colombian-American singer-songwriter is known to defy genres, blending sounds from all different lanes and sprinkling in her own signature style.

Most recently, she's headlining a joint tour with Jorja Smith, taking over two days at Greek Theatre in Los Angeles.

Pink Sweat\$

Who is Pink Sweat\$ besides a man who rocks pink sweats? One of the most fire new R&B singers to come of this generation. It was his breakout single "Honesty" that caught the attention of music-lovers nationwide. He croons on the chorus, "She said, 'What if I dive deep? / Will you come in after me?'"

In addition, he recently unleashed his Volume 2 EP and embarked on his first headlining tour ever.



KALI UCHIS • BY SACKS CO

Summer Walker

The Summer Walker movement is real. The Atlanta native blew up after the release of "CPR," but it was her follow-up single "Girls Need Love" that really stole the hearts of both females and males all across the world. Signed to LVRN (home to 6lack, Boogie, the ex-stripper turned recording artist proves dreams really do come true as long as you work hard and never give up.

Plus, Drake hopping on the remix to "Girls Need Love" was the cherry on top.

The-Dream

"In a falsetto, she like, ooh, ooh, baby!" The-Dream's vocal range stays strong from generation to generation, hitting high notes that aspiring singers can only dream of. Aside from his greatest hits – "I Luv Your Girl," "Rockin' That Sh**," "Shawty Is Da Shit," etc. – the North Carolina native even helped Rihanna pen one of her greatest hits "Umbrella."

If that's not enough, he recently unleashed his *Ménage à Trois: Sextape Vol. 1, 2, 3*. Baby-making music at the finest!

T-Pain

Nappy boy! T-Pain needs no introduction. The legend of autotune and R&B hits is still shutting down stages all across the world, performing cuts like "Buy U A Drank," "Blame It," "I'm Sprung," "I'm N Luv (Wit A Stripper)," and so many more. If that's not enough,



PINK SWEAT\$ • BY MADDIE CORDOBA

this year he returned with another fire project titled IUP.

If you ever question his legacy, just listen to the album's closing track "Goat Talk" featuring Lil Wayne.

Usher

"These are my confessions!" Seeing Usher on the bill ensues immediate nostalgia. The well-respected R&B singer has a long catalog of hits, such as "You Got It Bad," "Confessions," "My

Boo," "U Remind Me," "Love In This Club," and even turn out joints like "Yeah!" (featuring Lil Jon and Ludacris). While the '90s R&B vibe is extremely appreciated, Usher will probably play his new joints.

Most recently, he teamed up with legendary producer Zaytoven for a collaborative project titled *A*, which pays homage to their hometown of Atlanta.



L TO R: CHARLIE BEALL, DON BEALL, JOAN BEALL, CHER BEALL, KEN BEALL

BEALL FAMILY FOUNDATION GIFT

DONATION FUNDS UCI'S FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND NONPROFIT BUSINESS ACCELERATOR.

BY: NICK WALKER

PHOTO BY: STEVE ZYLIUS, UCI

Last week, The Beall Family Foundation, led by Donald and Joan Beal, granted a multi-million dollar gift to the University of California, Irvine. This new donation has brought the Beall family's total contributions to UCI to almost \$30 million. The most significant segment of this donation will go to UCI Applied Innovation, the campus's entrepreneurial and innovation platform, which is to be renamed UCI Beall Applied Innovation. UCI Applied Innovation was created in 2014 by Chancellor Howard Gillman to bring "campus-based inventions and entrepreneurship together with Orange County's vibrant business community to support job creation and economic growth." It intends to accelerate the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Irvine and surrounding cities.

Donald Beall is chairman of The Beall Family Foundation and a principal in

Dartbrook Partners LLC. After a 30-year career at Rockwell International – 20 of which he served as either chairman/CEO or president/COO – Mr. Beall retired in 1998. Mr. Beall sits on the advisory boards and executive committees of several schools and units across UCI, and his wife, Joan, sits on the advisory board of the Beall Center for Art + Technology.

"The impact the Bealls have on furthering the mission of UCI is remarkable," Chancellor Gillman stated in a quote. "From the arts to business to innovation, their generosity is felt throughout the campus, and we are grateful for their support."

"UCI Beall Applied Innovation understands that bringing great innovation to market requires a very intentional approach to industry engagement, and no one knows that better than Donald Beall," said Richard Sudek, Ph.D.,

executive director of UCI Beall Applied Innovation and UCI's chief innovation officer. "His generosity of leadership and acute business acumen are tremendous skills he brings to our board. His legacy of supporting innovation and technology translation will ensure that Orange

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County remains responsive to developing industries and economic opportunities. And this is at the heart of UCI Beall Applied Innovation."

Mr. Beall's son, Kenneth Beall, is a successful real estate entrepreneur and

has also been highly involved at UCI. He was on the task force that initially created UCI Applied Innovation, and has also previously served as chairman of the Beall Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at UCI's Paul Merage School of Business. He succeeded his father as chairman of the entrepreneurial hub in 2018. In addition, he also helped to create and launch a master's program in innovation and entrepreneurship, the only one of its kind in the UC system, which will begin its first year this fall.

UCI Beall Applied Innovation and the Beall Family Foundation have also begun a new endeavor, in collaboration, entitled University Lab Partners. It is set to be the first nonprofit wet lab incubator/accelerator in Orange County. University Lab Partners will open in September and will provide 17,000 square feet of specialized labs and equipment. Its primary focus is on life sciences and medical technology. NXT Biomedical, led by Stan Rowe, the former chief scientific officer at Edwards Lifesciences, will be one of the new program's initial residents.

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