

IRVINE'S BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS • TASTE OF EUROPE FOOD AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL • LOCAL MUSICALS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON

IRVINE WEEKLY

NOVEMBER 13, 2019 • VOL. 2, NO. 2



BOTRIDE

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BY LIZ GOLDNER

COVER: · Photo courtesy of BotRide

For all inquires: publisher@irvineweekly.com

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EMPLOYMENT



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Fashion Designer: Apply by mail to Crestone LLC, 1852 E. 46th St., Los Angeles, CA 90058, attn. CEO

Assistant Conservation Scientist: Research & technical analysis of objects. Requires master's in conservation science or rlt'd sci. w/2 yrs exp incl interpreting sci. data, writing & presenting tech. reports; performing experimental research on museum-quality art. Reqs. up to 10% U.S./Int'l travel. Must be authorized to work F/T without employer sponsor. Send resume: Museum Associates dba LACMA, Attn: V. McElroy/HR, 5905 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90036

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Test Architecture Engineering Manager (Multiple Positions) (Accenture LLP; Culver City, CA) Apply business and functional knowledge to develop end-to-end testing architecture for Accenture or our clients. Must have willingness and ability to travel domestically approximately 75% of the time to meet client needs. For complete job description, list of requirements, and to apply, go to: www.accenture.com/us-en/careers (Job# 00772067).

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BOTRIDE: DRIVERS (NOT) NEEDED

RIDESHARING SERVICE TESTS AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES – AND PERHAPS THE FUTURE OF TRAVEL – IN IRVINE.

BY: TARA FINLEY

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BOTRIDE

A new rideshare service has hit the streets of Irvine. The catch? There's no drivers.

BotRide began testing their pilot program on Monday, November 4 through a closed beta platform to high public interest. The first on-demand ridesharing service to use self-driving cars, those eager to try it submitted applications to take part in the company's inaugural rides.

BotRide was created by Hyundai in collaboration with Pony.ai and Via Rideshare. Available only through smartphone booking, this 100 percent autonomous service employs a fleet of red Hyundai Kona electric SUVs. As part of their testing program, BotRide is offering free rides to the Irvine community.

"The pilot introduces BotRide to several hundred Irvine residents, including college students. The goal is to study consumer behavior in an autonomous ridesharing environment," said Christopher Chang, head of business devel-

opment in Hyundai Motor Company's strategy and technology division.

Users can request via an iPhone or Android app to be picked up and dropped off within BotRide's operating zone. This zone covers part of the city and includes the UCI Campus. Intended as an alternative public transit option, each vehicle has a capacity of two. All riders must be pre-approved through BotRide's application process.

Depending on destination, passengers may share their ride with other users headed in the same direction. The company will then use the data garnered from app use and ride requests to better understand consumer need.

"We are going to learn about ecosystems, where the vehicles travel and optimize the customer experience. BotRide is another example of Hyundai's ongoing efforts to actively build expertise in mobility technology as well as the company's commitment to providing more user-friendly mobility services to customers," explains Chang.

In order to maintain rider safety, each self-driving vehicle will have two safety drivers on hand as a precaution. Unlike Uber or Lyft, the company prefers these team members limit interaction with passengers.

Pony.ai is a pioneer in the self-driving technology industry. Using Pony.ai's expertise to build the autonomous system within the cars, Hyundai called upon on partner Via to create BotRide's on-demand ridesharing technology and application.

BotRide vehicles rely on integrated Hyundai and Pony.ai technology to navigate complex road scenarios. Equipment such as sensors and positioning software help the cars identify and react to their surroundings appropriately.

"Through BotRide, Hyundai is leveraging cutting edge autonomous vehicle and mobility technologies to introduce a new, safe and convenient form of transportation to the public," said Daniel Han, manager, Advanced Product

Strategy, Hyundai Motor America.

The company expects the popularity of autonomous mobility to rise in the coming years and is preparing for the possibility of a fully driverless future.

"The BotRide pilot represents an important step in the deployment and eventual commercialization of a growing new mobility business," explains Han.

As the pilot testing program hits the road, BotRide hopes insights garnered will pave the way for a larger adaptation of the service, as well as community acceptance of autonomous transportation.

"The BotRide pilot can serve as an example," explained Han, "of how cities and companies can come together to truly enable smart cities and smart transportation systems of the future." Where they're going, they don't need drivers.





HIVE AND HONEY

IRVINE'S BEST LATE-NIGHT EATS

NEED A MIDNIGHT SNACK OR SIP? NO PROBLEM.

BY: RYAN LEUTERITZ

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE RESTAURANTS

Irvine is known for its rich culinary landscape, but lesser known is the city's surprising amount of nightlife. Whether you have just finished rocking a concert at FivePoint Amphitheatre, enjoying a show at the Irvine Improv, watching an OC Soccer Club match at the Great Park, or are just looking for a quick bite to end the night with, Irvine has plenty of late-night options. Here are some of our favorite restaurants that Irvine has to offer, all open past 10 p.m.

Cha For Tea

Cha For Tea is a late-night go-to for Irvine residents and UCI students alike. Open until 11:30 p.m. daily, and located in University Center, they're the perfect

destination for a late night study session or a warm milk tea in Cha's outdoor seating area. Despite Cha For Tea's name, it's smooth boba and sweet Taiwanese milk tea aren't the only things that keep customers coming back. Try one of Cha For Tea's many chicken dishes, like popcorn chicken or chicken gyoza, or one of their vegan options, like their crispy tofu or deep fried green beans. **4187 Campus Drive, Suite M173, Irvine; (949) 725-0300.**

Insomnia Cookies

Insomnia Cookies was founded 16 years ago by a Pennsylvania college student, with the idea of delivering fresh and delicious cookie products to its loyal



INSOMNIA COOKIES

customers, and this year the institution celebrated its 100th brick and mortar location. It is fairly new to Irvine, but Insomnia Cookies has already captured the hearts of Irvine residents with its decadent brownies and smooth ice cream flavors, which are often sandwiched between two of their freshly baked cookies. Try one of their fan-favorite chocolate chunk or red velvet cookies in one of their cookie packs, like their delicious duo or their box of 12 – all delivered right to your door until 3 a.m. **4187 Campus Drive, Suite M174, Irvine; (657) 900-5114, insomniacookies.com.**

Hive & Honey

Hive & Honey offers delicious late-night

bar bites and good times from their spectacular rooftop view atop the Irvine Marriott. Honey-themed cocktails paired with DJs and live music make this upscale lounge the perfect place to start your weekend. Stop by Hive & Honey and enjoy a pick from their lavish bar menu, like their duck confit taquitos or their tuna tartare, while enjoying a wonderful 360-degree view of Orange County. **7905 Irvine Center Drive, Irvine; (949) 759-0200.**

Eureka!

Eureka! is one of Irvine's favorite late-night destinations for beers and bites. Eureka! offers an innovative and unique Americana menu with items



EUREKA!

like lollipop corn dogs and their 28-day dry-aged burger. Select from 40 different beers and over 40 small batch whiskeys offered during Eureka!'s dual happy hour from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. and 9 p.m.-midnight every night. Also check out their daily specials, like Steal the Glass Wednesdays and live music on Thursdays. **4143 Campus Drive, Irvine; (949) 596-8881.**

Dave & Buster's

Dave & Buster's has any game you can think of, from the skee-ball machines of your childhood, to the life-sized Angry Birds and Doodle Jump machines of 2019. In addition to fun and games, Dave & Buster's also offers affordable cocktails and bar bites during their late-night happy hour, from 10 p.m. to close every night. Asian chicken nachos, cocktails and beer pints are all discounted during happy hour, so stop by for a night cap or to watch your favorite sports team, as Dave & Buster's also shows most major sporting events! **661 Spectrum Center Drive, Irvine; (949) 727-0555.**

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VINCE STAPLES + ZION & LENNOX + PHANTOGRAM + BOB MOSES
THIEVERY CORPORATION + FLATBUSH ZOMBIES + PENNYWISE + J.I.D. + REYKON
COMMON KINGS + THE KNOCKS + TOKIMONSTA + BRYCE VINE + JHAY CORTEZ
GRANDSON + FAKEAR + BOOMBOX + GOLDFISH + THE VANDALS + ALLIE X
DJ Z-TRIP + WILD BELLE + ANDY FRASCO & THE U.N. + CHESCA + MARIE MONTI
CAPYAC + WILD PRXFITS + STEVE FULTON + HENRY+THE INVISIBLES + THE ROUTINE
THE MATTSO 2 + JORDAN HOLLYWOOD + GRANDMA + JESSE BAEZ + BREWFISH

SUNDAY

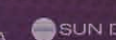
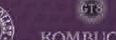
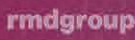
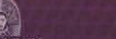
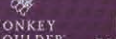
GUITAR LEGENDS 3

BILLY GIBBONS (ZZ TOP), WARREN HAYNES (ALLMAN BROTHERS, GOV'T MULE)
NANCY WILSON (HEART), STEVE LUKATHER (TOTO), CHARLIE STARR (BLACKBERRY SMOKE)
DIMITRI VEGAS & LIKE MIKE + LOS ANGELES AZULES + TUCANES DE TIJUANA

WALK THE MOON + TYGA + LIL DICKY + BIG WILD + BUSTA RHYMES + TRIBAL SEEDS
MANCHESTER ORCHESTRA + 3LAU + BANDA LOS SEBASTIANES + JONAS BLUE
HIPPO CAMPUS + SUICIDAL TENDENCIAS + X + DONAVON FRANKENREITER + MOON TAXI
GRACE VANDERWAAL + BAS + KHEA + JAPANESE BREAKFAST + BROODS + ENGLISH BEAT
DJ Z-TRIP + CHROME SPARKS + SUNSQUABI + FRANKIE J + DONNA MISSAL
GHOST LIGHT + VICTORIA LA MALA + SODOWN + EXMAG + HADDON CORD
CYDEWAYS + JESUS MENDOZA + GLADES + PLUS ROB MACHADO & FRIENDS

Fri-Sat-Sun: The Session with Christian James Hand

Sat-Sun: Tony Hawk's HuckJam



CULTURE

EDUCATION THROUGH DIVERSITY

THE 6TH ANNUAL TASTE OF EUROPE FOOD AND FOLKLORE FESTIVAL BROUGHT TOGETHER CULTURE AND FOOD FROM ACROSS THE CONTINENT.

BY: SCOTT FEINBLATT

PHOTOS: BY SCOTT FEINBLATT

It has frequently been said that variety is the spice of life. Because of this and the occasionally forgotten Emma Lazarus sonnet adorning the Statue of Liberty – which in part reads “Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free” – the more enlightened portions of the United States have always embraced the concept of a melting pot. The city of Irvine is a prime example. No, this is not a reference to the recently closed fondue restaurant The Melting Pot of Irvine; rather, it is a testament to

Taste of Europe highlighted cultural traditions, including music, dancing, children’s activities and especially foods from a variety of European countries. *Irvine Weekly* visited the festival to sample some delicious food, enjoy a bit of music, and speak with organizer Natasha Stojanovic about the festival’s history and diversity.

“We are a Serbian community, open to every other [community of] European diversity to bring together a bigger community,” Stojanovic explained. “We are celebrating European diversity,



the cultural diversity that can be found here. On November 2, members of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church and their extended family and friends hosted the 6th Annual Taste of Europe Food and Folk Festival at Woodbridge Community Park.

While the organizers of the event are principally tied to Serbian culture, the

encouraging people to watch and learn traditional dances from different European countries and to cherish and teach them to younger generations.” Stojanovic elaborated on the varieties of cultural dancing traditions that are showcased at the festival. “Today we have dancers from Serbia; we have dancers from Bulgaria; we have danc-

ers from Macedonia – dancers from all different countries.” As the MC for the event, Stojanovic introduced the various musicians and dancing demonstrations throughout the day. For each of her introductions, she’d written a poem to highlight the respective attributes of the performers. For example, her poem introducing the Serbian dancers identified the style of the group. “In English, it’s called a dance / but there is a special word you won’t forget, no chance / In Serbian, it’s called kolo / you dance in a group, not

solo.” At a glance, the festival was very small. When the *Weekly* visited, the outdoor area of the community center hosted a handful of vendors, about half a dozen varieties of traditional European food and drink stands, a performance area, a children’s area, and a dozen or so dining tables. Stojanovic explained that the size of this year’s event represented neither the large number of the community’s traditional performers nor a limitation of the passion that the community has for sharing its diversity. “Two years ago, I



SAUERKRAUT WITH SAUSAGE



GYROSA AND MEDITERRANEAN ROTISSERIE CHICKEN DISHES

had 147 performers. We were really going [all] out, and then I realized that it's not really feasible to do it. I mean, I'm not Irvine [Global Village] Festival, you know ... [but we have] very passionate people. The whole community comes together. We cook traditional European foods from scratch and these people and kids dance every week and put their heart and soul into this."

While the festival does not have a religious overtone, the community is essentially that of a church outreach event. This church, however, is particularly diverse, and it is this diversity that fuels the event's multiple flavors. "We do have a Serbian church. It's very multicultural; we have Bulgarian people, Russian people, Macedonian people, Serbian people, ex-Yugoslavian people ... everyone comes together

and once a year we celebrate our traditions, our culture, and just kind of show [the greater local community] what we are coming from." Stojanovic pointed out that Irvine has been a great place to experience cultural diversity. "I've lived here for 23 years, and I love when I watch other cultures and learn, because there's so much to learn. Then I also very much enjoy when someone comes and watches us. We're just sharing."

Among the various food stands, there were home-cooked meals representative of the cuisines of four countries. From Serbia there were pečenja i sarma (rotisserie pork or lamb and stuffed cabbage rolls) and Čevapi sa kajmakom i lukom (minced meat with clotted cream and onions) [which we tried ... and loved!]; from Italy there

was spaghetti with meatballs (featuring homemade marinara sauce and garlic bread); from Greece there were Mediterranean rotisserie chicken and gyros dishes; from Germany there was sausage with sauerkraut (served with scallion potatoes). A final food stand served a dish that is popular in a number of countries from the Balkans and beyond: burek. Burek sa mesom (filo pie with beef) and burek sa sirom (filo pie with feta cheese) both looked delicious, but given only one stomach (which we'd already filled), we opted to save the bureks for next time. Each of the plates was \$15, which was reasonable given the delicious and exotic qualities of the selections.

There was also a dessert stand, which offered a tempting variety of sweets. Those included: vanilice (nutty walnut

and vanilla cookies with jam), baklava, tiramisu, apple strudel and crepes. For beverages, there were several standard coffee-based drinks available as well as water, soda, and a few alcoholic choices (featuring imported Serbian beer). All of the proceeds from the food sales went to the church and community.

"We're trying to bring everyone and say, 'Hey, let's be a family here,'" said Stojanovic as she emphasized her desire to bridge cultural gaps and her wish that such diversity would not only be reserved for special occasions. "I have friends from Australia, from Peru, from like everywhere in the world, and I cherish that. They opened my eyes to different things and I want to see what can I do better in my life [by] learning other stuff."



PEČENJA



ČEVAPI SA KAJMAKOM I LUKOM



BEAUTY AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE ORDINARY

AMIR ZAKI'S PHOTOS IN EMPTY VESSEL EXHIBITION AT ORANGE COAST COLLEGE TRANSFORM SKATE PARKS AND BROKEN POTTERY INTO SOMETHING MORE.

BY: LIZ GOLDNER

PHOTOS: BY AMIR ZAKI

Take a cursory look at the large artworks hung on the walls in "Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki" at Orange Coast College. The pictures might be architectural drawings from a science fiction novel.

The images display broad expanses of concrete, which has been seemingly sculpted into circular, clean cut and even jagged forms, with several shapes echoing the hills and mountains beyond. The viewer might wonder if these 22 compelling pictures, some including tropical foliage and sharp shadows, are drawings or paintings inspired by the artist's fertile imagination.



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- Jim and Carol Hoffman

ARTS

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Yet a conversation with Tyler Stallings, exhibition curator and director of the college's Doyle Art Pavilion, reveals that these are high-resolution photos of vacant California skateparks. All images are devoid of people and photographed in the early morning, when the shadows are deep and most skateboarders are still asleep.

Stallings explains that Zaki, the photographic artist who created these archival pigment prints, all titled "Concrete Vessel," shot these by employing a "GigaPan" mechanism, connected to his camera. This device allows him to take several dozen photos of each particular scene and to then "stitch them all together digitally to create a single, highly detailed image," as the curator writes.

Stallings adds, "The resulting series have wide-angle views that are not affected by the warping edges of a wide-angle lens, since each individual image is slightly telephoto and the GigaPan moves side-to-side in rows, up and down in columns, capturing a large grid of images within the programmed dimensions of a plane."

The California skate parks chosen for these photos are in Chino, Chino Hills, Costa Mesa, Fillmore, Fontana, Lake Forest, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Diego and Solvang.

The Chino Hills skate park photo has an otherworldly vibe, as it contains broad expanses of flat concrete, evoking scenes from the 1960s film, *Planet of the Apes*. The Fillmore park is more down-to-earth, with its inclusion of large potted plants atop a side-wall. The photo of the Solvang skate park features a walkway, concrete railings and stairs, suggesting a pathway from a classic European park. Other images in this series include jutting structures, rounded, sculptural characteristics and semi-triangular shapes.

Yet "Concrete Vessels" comprises only part of this exhibition. The remaining 11 images from Zaki's "Broken Vessel" series – photos of shards from broken ceramic, earthenware bowls, cups and vases – complement the skatepark pictures. The source material for both series is clay from the earth – or concrete in the first series, and ceramic clay in the second one. The pictures represent a macro view of our world, embodied by the expansive skate parks, alongside a smaller

or micro vision, represented by the still lifes of the shards. Combining these two series provides an artistic vision of sculptural elements found in surprising places.

Regarding the "Broken Vessel" series, Stallings explains that Zaki purchased inexpensive ceramics from places like thrift stores, and later dropped each item onto his patio. He then selected broken ceramic shards that were both interesting and that "might evoke aspects of the skate parks in miniature form," as the curator writes. Shattering the pots and then creating beauty from them is akin to the concept that destruction can lead to transformation, and to the quote, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger," often credited to Friedrich Nietzsche.

While the photographic process employed for the "Broken" series is less complex than the "Concrete" one, Zaki used creative methods to shoot the ceramics, including using natural light filtered through palm tree fronds. His ambiguous "Broken Vessel" titles for all of the photos encourage the viewer to determine her/his own conceptual and sculptural perspective for each art piece. Further, while most people tend to discard broken crockery, Zaki's photos evoke abstract sculpture and even birds and sleeping animals.

With both series, he starts with ordinary sites and objects and transforms them into extraordinary artworks by using illusionistic photography and unusual angles. If one goal of art is to enable viewers to perceive life and the environment in an enlightened manner, the artist has succeeded. If a second goal is to provide viewers with visions of beauty in the everyday world, he has also accomplished this.

Amir Zaki, a yoga instructor and reportedly a Zen Buddhist practitioner, combines digital and analog photography in his work. He creates ominous artworks that tell viewers to look for the beauty in the world around them. And if they think they know what is really there, look again.

"Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki" is on view through December 5, 2019, at Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion, Mon.-Thu., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. & first Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.: free. http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/visual_arts/Arts_Pavilion



BROKEN VESSEL 85



BROKEN VESSEL 120



CONCRETE VESSEL 138



CONCRETE VESSEL 71

BEAUTY AND SPIRITUALITY IN THE ORDINARY

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PHOTOS: BY AMIR ZAKI

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Yet "Concrete Vessels" comprises only part of this exhibition. The remaining 11 images from Zaki's "Broken Vessel" series – photos of shards from broken ceramic, earthenware bowls, cups and vases – complement the skatepark pictures. The source material for both series is clay from the earth – or concrete in the first series, and ceramic clay in the second one. The pictures represent a macro view of our world, embodied by the expansive skate parks, alongside a smaller

or micro vision, represented by the still lifes of the shards. Combining these two series provides an artistic vision of sculptural elements found in surprising places.

Regarding the "Broken Vessel" series, Stallings explains that Zaki purchased inexpensive ceramics from places like thrift stores, and later dropped each item onto his patio. He then selected broken ceramic shards that were both interesting and that "might evoke aspects of the skate parks in miniature form," as the curator writes. Shattering the pots and then creating beauty from them is akin to the concept that destruction can lead to transformation, and to the quote, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger," often credited to Friedrich Nietzsche.

While the photographic process employed for the "Broken" series is less complex than the "Concrete" one, Zaki used creative methods to shoot the ceramics, including using natural light filtered through palm tree fronds. His ambiguous "Broken Vessel" titles for all of the photos encourage the viewer to determine her/his own conceptual and sculptural perspective for each art piece. Further, while most people tend to discard broken crockery, Zaki's photos evoke abstract sculpture and even birds and sleeping animals.

With both series, he starts with ordinary sites and objects and transforms them into extraordinary artworks by using illusionistic photography and unusual angles. If one goal of art is to enable viewers to perceive life and the environment in an enlightened manner, the artist has succeeded. If a second goal is to provide viewers with visions of beauty in the everyday world, he has also accomplished this.

Amir Zaki, a yoga instructor and reportedly a Zen Buddhist practitioner, combines digital and analog photography in his work. He creates ominous artworks that tell viewers to look for the beauty in the world around them. And if they think they know what is really there, look again.

"Empty Vessel – Amir Zaki" is on view through December 5, 2019, at Orange Coast College's Frank M. Doyle Arts Pavilion; Mon.-Thu., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. & first Saturdays, noon-4 p.m.: free. http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu/academics/divisions/visual_arts/Arts_Pavilion



BROKEN VESSEL 85



BROKEN VESSEL 120



CONCRETE VESSEL 138

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