

Response & Resilience

Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department Training Center
Collection of Artwork Reproductions



Alicia Aldama

Heart, 2023

Original medium: Photograph

The image is of a girl holding her mother's hand. The mother is holding on tight to the girl as if to tell the girl that she is secure. An innocence is felt with the heart drawn on the girl's hand. I chose this image because there is a bond when someone holds another person's hand. There is a sense of safety and security even though things in life may be uncertain. We hold hands to feel a connection to another human, to feel or show love. It is a simple act to feel connection to one another.



Sean Boyles

Clouds over King Road, 2020

Original medium: Acrylic paint

I cross King Road most days I leave the house. It's one of the spots where the landscape opens, and I get an expansive view of the sky.



Ryan Carrington

Flag #25, 2022

Original medium: Medical scrubs
and lab coats

By using the uniforms of healthcare workers to make an American flag, I'm honoring the hard work and dedication that they are putting forth as they literally fight for our lives. The sacrifice and courage that our nurses, doctors, and hospital staff have made for the health of our society is unimaginable. Trained as an artist, this is my way of participating in this larger conversation, and to say thank you for their service.

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Lorena Cortez

Harmony in Crisis, 2023

Original medium: Digital illustration

The artwork encapsulates San José's resilience amid adversity. It features the city's map emblematic of the community's foundation and within this, a firetruck emerges as a beacon of hope and unity during emergencies. Poppies surround the firetruck, symbolizing beauty flourishing amidst hardship — a testament to the community's unwavering spirit and determination to overcome challenges. The piece serves to inspire viewers to find harmony and resilience, togetherness, and hope amidst life's trials.



Julie Bovee Hill

A Park and its People, 2023

Original medium: Acrylic paint on canvas

As the COVID pandemic fired up in early 2020, I had the opportunity to paint a mural at Leif Erikson Park in San Jose. As the work progressed, I became acquainted with many of the park visitors and community members who were working with the city to have murals painted in their park and were also organizing to plant beds of beautiful, drought tolerant native California plants. These people inspired me during a difficult time, and this painting is a celebration of their community spirit.



Melinda James

A Little Space in which to Grow, 2017

Original medium: Photograph

The 2017 wave of deadly wildfires in California caused catastrophic destruction across the state. In such dire emergencies, first responders come together to repair, restore, and rebuild what once was. This double exposure photograph is an exploration of the worlds that exist within us by layering multiple images upon one another. In this we see branches rising from the roots, flower buds and their seeds at the crown. Like the promises of new growth that seeds bring, within us is the opportunity and possibility to start fresh and anew.

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Nicholas Jimenez

Hold Me, 2023

Original medium: Digital illustration

Hold Me is a collection of visual motifs depicting socioeconomic hierarchy. This graphic illustration highlights and reminds the viewer of those in need, the regions served and the selflessness one must possess as a public servant.



Pantea Karimi

Rising Sprouts, 2018

Original medium: Serigraph and watercolor on paper

Inspired by a 2018 wildfire in California with devastating impacts on the land, *Rising Sprouts* conveys a message of hope, strength, and the indomitable spirit of nature and human communities. It shows plants emerging and thriving amidst the ashes, blooming in orange and yellow sprouts, suggesting growth, renewal, and vitality. The artwork symbolizes the resilience of nature and the return of life after natural disasters and serves as a metaphor for the resilience of community spirits and the bravery of firefighters.



Deborah Kennedy

The Spark of Life, 2023

Original medium: Ink, earth pigment,
and copper leaf on ecopaper

This artwork suggests ideas aligned with the mission of the OEM. Carefully applied copper leaf glints across its surface, suggesting the vitality of life, and these lively metal surfaces glitter with light suggesting our vibrant inner energies—the spark of life. The blue foundation symbolizes responsibility and trustworthiness and blue lines structuring the composition suggest the power of collaboration. The artwork celebrates those committed to safeguarding communities and working to reinforce the bonds that strengthen our community's resilience.

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Dave Lepori
Team Work, 2006

Original medium: Digital photograph

In *Team Work* the close contact of these firemen show their dedication and teamwork that is an essential part of their work in protecting the community.



Valentino Loyola
The Person Rose, 2012-13

Original medium: Photograph

This artwork is composed of multiple photographs. The image was inspired by the prosperity of spirit and richness of heart that Valentino has been most fortunate to have attained through hardships and familial losses since a young age; hope and inspiration have been a centerpiece to his life. In this work Valentino seeks to express his transcendent experiences in a beautiful, and poetic form of visual performance.



Julie Meridian
Elevate, 2017

Original medium: Acrylic on canvas

Elevate is an optimistic statement on the collective power of humanity. Each of us has a different experience in the world, and we carry that in how we look and how we express ourselves. Whatever our stance – quiet or outgoing, pensive or precocious – we play a role in shaping our combined world. Whether we are reaching for help or lending a hand just depends on the current moment.

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James Mertke

Plant Propagation, 2023

Original medium: Acrylic on canvas

Plant Propagation highlights the cycle of life in common houseplants. When leafy cuttings are taken from a mother houseplant and placed in a jar of water, new roots with form and allow the cutting to sustain itself. These can be replanted and will grow into their own plant. This process can be repeated over and over again as new life begins to spread around, demonstrating the resilience inherent in nature.



Sara Mordecai

Phoenix Rising, 2020

Original medium: Oil on canvas

This Phoenix pushes away darkness with its up-stretched wings. Sunlight, a new day, shines from above. Together symbolizing the tenacity, perseverance, and strength we possess as individuals and as a community.



Elena Mukhina

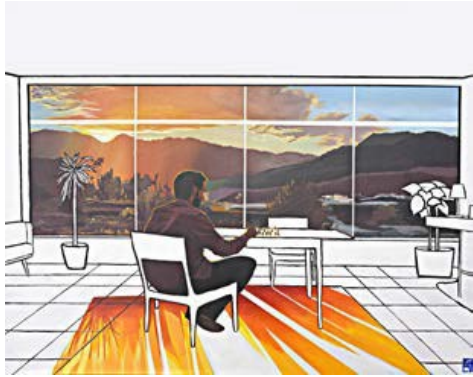
Guardians of Crisis: Ready to Respond, 2023

Original medium: Acrylic paint on paper

Natural disasters are a part of our lives. Whether an approaching storm, a fire or impending inferno, flood, the aftermath of an earthquake, or an unfortunate accident, there is a person, a voice on the other end of the phone line who will swiftly respond to the emerging crisis. This person takes the steps to activate the needed emergency response. You may not know them personally, but you know these emergency workers exist. You know that there are people who, regardless of the scale of the disaster, know how to provide aid in any given situation. Thank you to the dedicated individuals at OEM and FDTC for their noble efforts.

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Darren Naylor

Think Outside, 2023

Original medium: Oil paint on canvas

This artwork tells a story of decision making and how in emergency situations each move must be careful and calculated, just like in a chess game. In the case of the OEM and SJFD, every single decision they make plays out into the community and environment outside of them and requires a laser focus on what the next best move is for the task at hand. The person in the painting no longer must focus on their current state, which is why it's entirely black and white. The only decision that matters is the one front of them, the one they must carefully make that will affect the world around them.



S. Newman

We Are One Heart, 2016

Original medium: Oil paint on canvas

The artwork embraces the compassion and empathy we have for one another. It seeks to unify and build; helping one another and recognizing we all depend on one another for support and help, both to give and to receive.



Sarah J.L. Nguyen

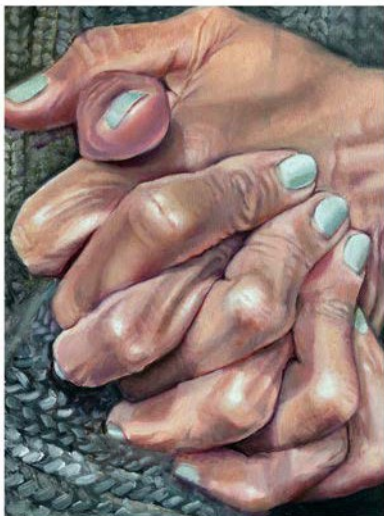
24/7, 365, 2023

Original medium: Watercolor on paper

The artwork is created around resilience, as the ability to bounce back in the face of adversity. It's something that grows with experience by getting out there and doing difficult work. Day and night, members of the San Jose Fire Department and Office of Emergency Management work hard to keep us safe – now and in the future. They build resilience every time they clock in. Day and night, we can go about our lives knowing we have their support.

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Felicita Norris

***I Gotchu*, 2021**

Original medium: Oil and acrylic on canvas

Themes of hope and resilience despite loss are presented in *I Gotchu*. This is a painting of my hands from my 40th birthday after having gone through a traumatic experience about a month prior. From that experience, I learned how to give myself permission to find and accept support from my community and maybe more importantly, from myself. I love painting hands and I see them as similar to faces, but more often overlooked and taken for granted; they help us so much, are full of experience, expression and even language. Since these are my hands tightly clenched, I am reminding myself that I can depend on me even when it feels like no one else is around, but the pattern of the woven sweater in the background (representing community) also serves as a reminder that I am not actually alone.



Carlos Ortiz

***SJ Heroes*, 2023**

Original medium: Color pencil
and marker

The artwork depicts a shark cartoon as a SJFD first responder. It is inspired by the San Jose Sharks and the SJFD being in action when the community and city needs them. And it is a BIG thank you.



Rayos Magos

***Águila Volador (Flying Eagle)*, 2023**

Original medium: Linocut block print on paper

The artwork is a symbolic representation of the spirit energy of an eagle in flight. In Mesoamerican culture eagles were highly revered as gods because they could fly up to the sun and not get burned and were associated with the sunrise and sunset. The image depicts a fearless eagle rising above the land to see the bigger picture. The piece embodies rising above the cycles of life and death. I believe this concept represents firefighters and emergency service workers' bravery and courage to go above and beyond to make selfless sacrifices for others in need.

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Tijuana Rick
Hi Neighbor, 2023

Original medium: Print with PVC cutout

This artwork is part of a series called *Hi Neighbor* inspired by the Cheery Farmer of the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds. The work pays homage to the fearless heroes of the SJFD, established in 1854, protecting our communities, and lending a helping hand to our neighbors. The firehouse image, provided by History San Jose, calls to our nostalgic appreciation of our valley's history. The caricature is styled in a welcoming way for all visitors.



Alvin Rodriguez
Fire Squad, 2021

Original medium: Photograph

In my artwork, I aim to capture the courage, resilience, and selflessness of firefighters as they valiantly battle the destructive forces of a raging fire in Downtown San Jose.



Sam Rodriguez
Old SJ, 2022

Original medium: Digital illustration

This is a piece about the cultural identity of San Jose and how it has withstood change through time. Part of this comes from resilience, and pride, but another key component that isn't mentioned that often is preservation. Resilience comes from will power, but it needs to be followed with action. Emergency workers are valuable beyond responding to our worst moments, they are shields that protect our legacy.

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Stevie Salcido

Ethereal, 2022

Original medium: Photograph

We live near mountains that can possibly catch fire during fire seasons; in Winter when we have fog and a chilly environment it is less likely to happen. The artwork is a representation of both seasons merged into one. In the foreground of the photo there is dead, burnt, and scorched tree branches whereas in the background there are beautiful flourishing and thriving trees. Nature is truly one of the finest things in life, and it's unfortunate that at times it suffers. However, from that suffering there is beauty and new growth emerges to start its life once again, embodying resilience.



Patrick Samuels

The Kitchen Sink, 2022

Original medium: Digital photograph

The Kitchen Sink, part of a series on global warming, depicts a homely kitchen, now underwater projecting the issues we face today as they may be in society's future.



Christopher Sicat

The Heights of Resilience, 2023

Original medium: Digital photograph

The artwork gives us a ground level perspective of resilience and new growth amongst the redwoods. The image created because of the CZU fires created a once in a lifetime moment of a new growth canopy with a unique viewing of the sky and stars.

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Omari Stephens

The Awful Beauty of Fire and Water, 2001

Original medium: Digital photograph

When in balance, fire and water are fundamental forces in community, but when that balance is lost, they're highly destructive. This photograph symbolizes San José's commitment to urban/suburban arbor and greenery, and the risks and challenges that arise from that commitment. When emergencies strike, the combined efforts of OEM and SJFD are essential in restoring that balance, and preserving the sense of resiliency that allows us to feel safe amidst the natural beauty of our environment. I hope this image will help viewers reflect our reliance on preparation and response in living in close proximity to nature, and that it will inspire SJFD trainees in their work to step up when the need inevitably arises. We don't get to live this life without you.



Bill Vujevich

The Brave, 2023

Original medium: Acrylic paint

The Brave is a concept of what a firefighter represents to the public. Every living thing has an instinctive fear of fire but there are brave individuals who will put themselves between you and the danger to protect lives and property. I used color and techniques that convey this without being too realistic but rather more artistic.



Chris Weyant

Fire in the Homestead, 2022

Original medium: Oil paint on canvas

A story of bravery in the face of danger; a family works to escape a deadly fire.

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Alyssa Wigant

We Rise by Lifting Others, 2023

Original medium: Digital illustration

This work is inspired by community resilience and the ways we come together to rebuild after emergencies, guided by the OEM, SJFD, and other key leaders. Surrounded by thumbnails of natural disasters and emergencies, the quote "We Rise by Lifting Others" stands strong and centered, surrounded by helping hands. The goal of this piece is to remind viewers that we all play a part in recovering from disasters, and we heal from emergencies together as a community, not individuals.