

LIVING LIKE A LOCAL

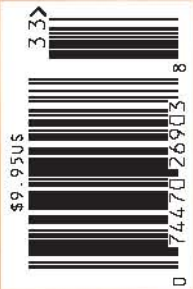
LOCALE

Los Angeles



Arianny CELESTE

ANSWERS THE BELL AND
COMES OUT SWINGING



the CONTRIBUTORS

AUGUST 2014

WRITERS



NATALIE HOLTZ

Natalie Holtz is a writer living in San Diego. She received her BA in English Literature from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 2010. A word sleuth and book junkie, she prefers paper over e-books and loves few things more than surfing four to five-foot waves. You can follow her projects in process on her blog:

www.thesurferstokeproject.com.



MATILDA BRESS

Matilda Bress was born, and is still being raised, on Balboa Island. At only 16 years old, she is just beginning her journalistic pilgrimage and hopes to continue her passion in college. A junior at Corona del Mar High School, she enjoys studying till the break of dawn, politics, water polo and her Instagram.



BRETT SCHORR

Brett is a journalist, web and graphic designer and Broadcast Journalism student at Cal State University Fullerton. Outside of his creative talents, Brett has a strong passion for live music, coffee, Disneyland and all things local. www.brettschorr.com



LINDSAY DELONG

Lindsay has become a regular fixture in far-away places, whether at the world's largest Redhead Festival in the Netherlands or at a Sheikh's Palace in Abu Dhabi, eating pheasants. Holding it down physically in Long Beach, she is first and foremost a journalist—

always watching with a keen eye. www.iLikeLindsay.com



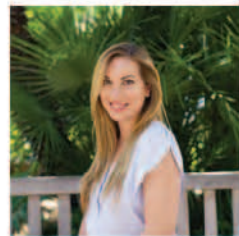
ED HALEY

Ed Haley currently writes for Screenpicks.com, doing entertainment and film reviews and has been on the Hollywood film critic circuit for several years. A native of California residing in Orange County for most of his adult life, Ed finds satisfaction in moonlighting as an unsuccessful writer while also co-owning a small real estate investment firm.



EMILY VILLANUEVA

Emily Villanueva is sensitive, superstitious, slightly scatterbrained and far too forthcoming. She is a wandering wordsmith who spends 90 percent of her time (and paychecks) on food. When she's not busy stuffing her face, she's stuffing her head with delicious literature, music and art, because brain food is important, too, kids.



CHRISTINE WILLIAMSON

A Californian girl, Christine spends time vacillating between the deserts in Palm Springs, the city of Los Angeles and the beaches of the OC. Christine is the founder of Spring Social, which focuses on social media and marketing for restaurants. www.Spring-Social.com



JENNIFER LE

When she's not being a college student five days a week, Jennifer can be found in one of three places: at home, the beach or a Starbucks! She considers herself to be a humanitarian, Pinterest addict and a writer by hobby. Traveling is one of

Jennifer's favorite things to do; her travel journal is her most prized possession.



LORRAINE CHAMBERS

Lorraine is Canadian born and Southern California raised by Irish parents. She is currently co-editor of TheHollywoodTimes.org and runs her own site CalifornialrishOC.com. Lorraine enjoys working with children, singing in church choirs, karaoke, cycling and taking the Balboa Ferry!



JESSIE SETKUS

Jessie Setkus is a resident of Southern Orange County and a graduate of California State University Fullerton. She is a freelance writer with an advertising background and experience in social media, public relations, copywriting and blogging. She also has a passion for non-profit organizations, is a world traveler, a food fanatic and a hedgehog enthusiast.



DEIRDRE MICHALSKI

Deirdre Michalski is a travel and culinary writer covering topics near and far. She's always on the hunt for the next hot chef, or the best in regional cuisine. You can read more about her adventures on her website www.TastesAndTravel.com. When not tied to her iPad, or traveling, she can be found in her garden or on the bike path along the coast.



ALANNA POWERS

Alanna is a lifestyle writer living in West Hollywood. She graduated with a degree in Journalism and Mass Communication at the Cronkite School at Arizona State and has written for many publications since. Follow Alanna on Twitter [@alannapow](https://twitter.com/alannapow)

STYLISTS



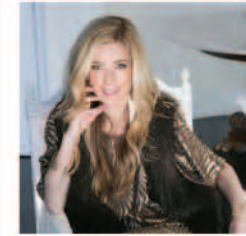
BRITTANY HART

Brittany is a wardrobe stylist and fashion blogger based in OC who strives to keep fashion fun and attainable for each of her clients. She specializes in editorial, advertising, and look book styling. www.thefashiondrug.com & www.brittanyhart.com



STYLE BY F.E.A

Francisco, Eddie and Alex Barragan are three freelance fashion stylists from Orange County who collectively form Style by F.E.A. Working as a team, the Barragan brothers give clients the unique experience of having three creative minds working as one. Apart from being fascinated by all things fashion, the brothers have a genuine interest in helping others look and feel their best. www.stylebyfea.com



SHILOH MCKASSON

Shiloh McKasson is a stylist, designer and yoga instructor living in Corona del Mar. She recently launched Shiloh Style Group, which helps clients rejuvenate looks that bring their style to life. www.shilohstyle.com

DISTRIBUTION



RICK RAMIREZ

When racks run out, Rick runs in.





CANVASING

THE CITY

TRADING FLIP FLOPS FOR ARTIST CHOPS

WRITTEN BY: **DEIRDRE MICHALSKI**
PHOTOGRAPHED BY: **JEFF FARSAI**

Sometimes you just know. In the case of Cari, everyone knew. From sketching and drawing in charcoal and painting with acrylics to interior design, this fine arts painter exudes creativity in every form and fashion. Successfully selling every art piece on her website, Cari has proven the talent behind her passion, with her pieces proudly setting the mood in homes, galleries and commercial businesses around the globe. When asked of her favorite piece, it set me back to find that she had selected the same one that initially caught my eye. Aptly named “Water and Fire In Love,” the color and movement of this piece were inspired by the dramatic, ethereal and motion-filled flow of the ocean. The work drew me in like a moth to a flame.

Always intrigued to learn how an artist initiates their work, I was especially captivated by Cari’s process. Most of her new projects begin at night—after the hums and bings of emails and text messages have calmed. Distractions are at a minimum. Her creativity flourishes as her hand selects the paint. The color, the brush and her thoughts drive her every move. Carefree, yet confident, it all begins to flow and usually continues for hours. The time spent at the easel is long and fruitful. Often her bedtime is another’s morning.

In addition to discussing the process of her amazing work, Cari sat down with me to explain her large-canvas formats, her knack for home design, her favorite Downtown LA hangouts and an exciting new project that she couldn’t wait to share with us.

“Art is really my life IN ALL FORMS. FROM PAINTING TO DRAWING TO INTERIOR DESIGN, TO CLOTHES AND EVEN MY CAR!”



www.carileeart.com



Working on large-canvas formats is just her thing. She stretches the canvases herself, allowing her to create the size that works for her and her clients.

Q: How did your artistry come about for you? How did you discover your incredible talent?

Carl Lee: It was really just a natural process. I have always been creative, I guess you might say. I am a painter now, but I really started out drawing. I would sketch portraits of my idols, like Shirley Temple and Marilyn Monroe. I was winning contests at 14, and often worked in charcoal. Then at about age 16, I began to paint, using acrylics, and never really looked back. My color work really led to other things as well, like interior design. It all works so well together—one plays off the other. Sometimes the artwork on the wall sets the mood for a room, and other times it starts with the painted surfaces, fabric or other fixtures that provide the inspiration.

Q: Did you grow up in California?

CL: Yes. I was born in Culver City, but our family moved to Hermosa Beach. My sister and I grew up near 10th Street and really enjoyed the beach. My sister went to UCLA and I became a painter. Eventually I moved here to this loft in Downtown Los Angeles and really love it here. I have been living here for about a year and a half. I still spend a great deal of my downtime near the beach. I get a lot of inspiration being near the water.

Q: Where does your passion come from for your art?

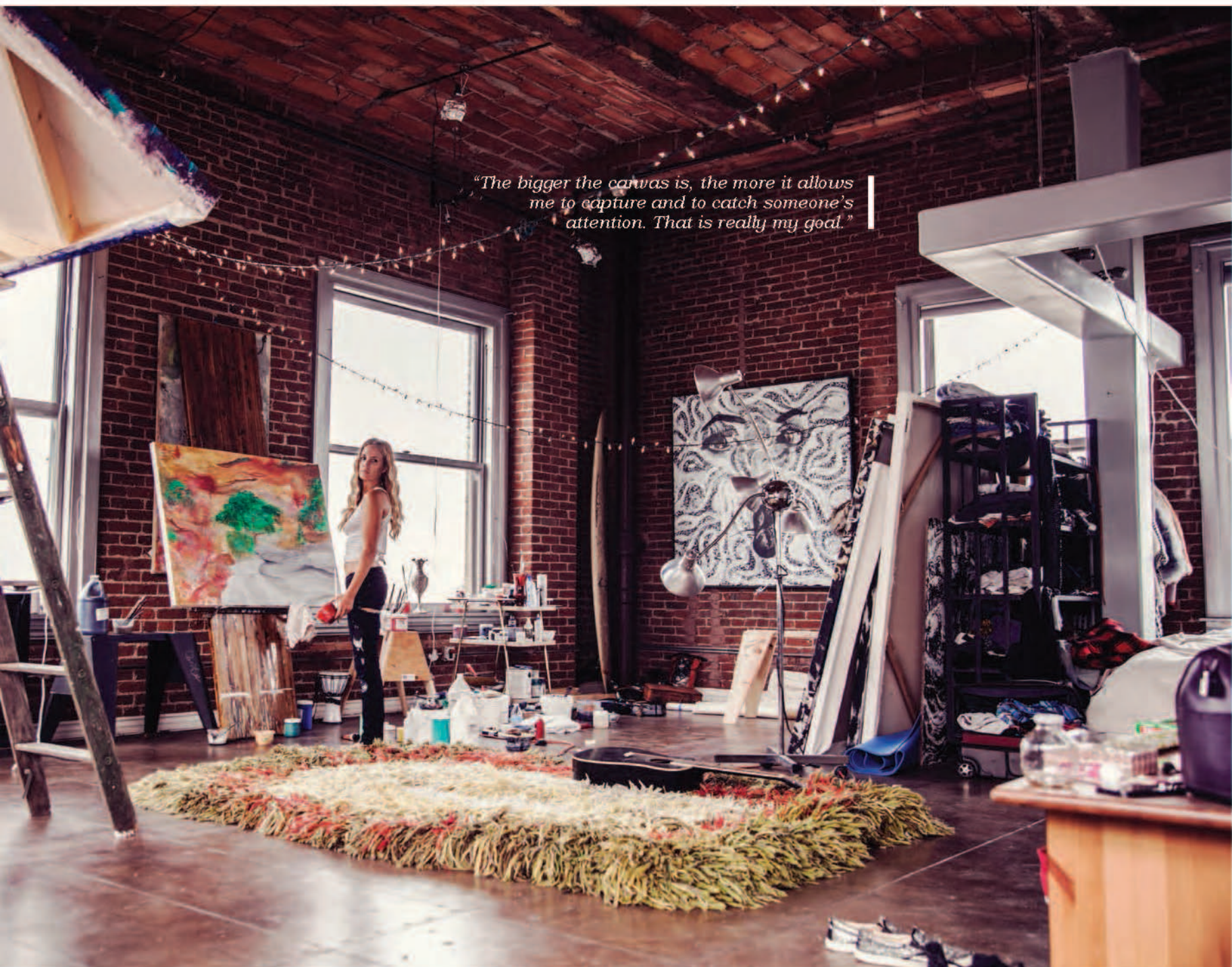
CL: Art is really my life in all forms. From painting to drawing to interior design, to clothes and even my car! My Chevy Nova SS is a classic from 1970, and I just love the classic lines of that car. I just had to have it. I think about art constantly. I see it everywhere around me.

Q: What is your painting format of choice?

CL: My preference is BIG; that is one of the many things that took me to Downtown Los Angeles. An Artist Loft just suits my style of painting. I stretch my own canvas, so I can make them whatever size that works for the project at hand. The bigger the canvas is, the more it allows me to capture and to catch someone's attention. That is really my goal. The size is often dictated by the specific needs of a client, or the room where the piece will be hung. If it is my choice... I choose large-scale.

Q: How does your art impact home design?

CL: Starting at about age 14 I knew I was onto something. My mother would ask me to help with redecorating a room, and the next thing I knew, I was helping her friends with their home décor. It was odd, but fun all at the same time and suited me well. I could see where my artwork, and other's work, could fit into a space



"The bigger the canvas is, the more it allows me to capture and to catch someone's attention. That is really my goal."

nicely and started to pair the two together. It was like one huge canvas and finding all the pieces that fit into that puzzle. It was such a fun process for me.

Q: So how has your artwork evolved over time?

CL: Well, I started sketching and drawing with black charcoal on white paper, and moved to color with acrylics on canvas. My work in interior design led to a respect for shapes and lines. Next thing you know, I moved onto colorful ethereal paintings and those that evoke movement and form. Nature is what really inspires me—especially the ocean. When I do have some free time, I tend to go to the beach.

Q: Do you remember your most exciting painting delivery?

CL: Yes. I was delivering three pieces that were commissioned for a law office and they had not seen any of them during the process. It was so exciting to bring them into the brand new, empty room and have my paintings set the tone for the entire space. They loved them and I was so thrilled. I will never forget that feeling!

Q: What is your "painter's uniform" these days?

CL: Well, you can see images of me painting that my friend captured on my website and you can pretty much see how it all comes down. I am comfortable, with my cut up jeans, hat and sock-covered feet. I am low key, standing over the canvas and working through my process.

Q: So what is the social life like here in Downtown Los Angeles?

CL: Well ever since the Ace Hotel opened, I have noticed there are so many more people that are down here to "dig the vibe" in this area. This 13 story property has returned to its ornate beauty when it was first unveiled in 1927—pretty cool.

Q: What else is going on in Downtown Los Angeles for young hipsters like yourself?

CL: The Ace Hotel is a wonderful hub of activity, and of course, I enjoy going there and meeting friends. I also enjoy the Arts District. There is so much energy there and I do everything from popping into a delicious Italian restaurant like Bestia, or an indoor/outdoor café such as Daily Dose. It is all here. We even have a flea market that is a lot of fun.

Q: What else do you do for fun when you are not painting or at the beach?

CL: I have some special friends. They tend to get me out to exciting events and I really enjoy my time with them. But I also enjoy returning to my solitude. It is a funny balance. I have to say I would much prefer an intimate dinner party over a big event with hundreds of people milling around. That's just me.

Q: Tell us about your exciting new London "fabric arts" project? What is next for Cari Lee?

CL: I am thrilled to share this news with you. I am developing a clothing line in London that will feature selected pieces of my artwork printed onto fabric. My artwork will be used for t-shirts and dresses. The movement of my work will be perfect for this venue. The clothing designer and I have been Skyping back and forth on the details and samples. It is all very exciting. What would I do without Skype? It has made it all possible. Lots of plane rides I presume, but this is a much better compromise and the creativity just flows for both of us. Stay tuned for more on this exciting adventure! There is so much more to come. ■