



# COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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## NEWS RELEASE



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### **ART EXHIBITON: Spotlight Award Recipients**

The Santa Cruz County Parks Department is pleased to announce an exhibition for the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission's 2023 Spotlight Awards, which recognize individuals who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their work, but who have not received widespread acknowledgment of their talent.

This year's recipients include Kevin Painchaud (photojournalist), Heejin Lee (mixed-media artist), Augie Escobedo (painter/muralist), Nikia Chaney (writer/poet), and Madeline Aliah (writer/poet). Each will be showing their work on the 5th floor of the County Government Center, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz from August 1 through October 20. A First Friday opening reception will be held August 4 from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

This annual award recognizes younger artists as well as those who are discovering their artistic voice later in life. Spotlight Awardees must reside in Santa Cruz County.

In addition, they must have completed works that show a high degree of excellence, individuality, innovation, and/or creativity. Their work must show artistic promise as demonstrated in a significant achievement for at least one completed piece of artwork, performance, exhibit, or written work which is recognized by critics, educators, or arts professionals.