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MEDIA CONTACT:

Matthew Van Court

Olive Creative Strategies, Inc.

858.472.6937

matthew@olivecreativestrategies.com

NTC Foundation Awards Studio Space at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station to Local Artist, Leslye Villaseñor

Recent UCSD graduate and oil painter, Leslye Villaseñor, has been awarded studio space for one year as part of the Emerging Artists Studio Program.

SAN DIEGO (January 23, 2023) – [NTC Foundation](#), the non-profit organization that oversees the development of 26 buildings in ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station, has announced Leslye Villaseñor as the 2023 Emerging Artist. Now in its fourth year, the Emerging Artist program awards studio space to emerging talent for one year at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station.



“The Emerging Artists Studio Program provides up-and-coming artists with the opportunity to grow their skillsets in an awarded studio space right in the heart of ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station,” said Lisa Johnson, President and CEO of NTC Foundation. “This year we are honored to present the studio space to Leslye Villaseñor, an oil painting artist who captures the essence of human emotion through a

personalized philosophical lens. The space will allow her to build her career in San Diego and strengthen her ties to San Diego's arts community."

A recent Studio Arts graduate from UCSD, Leslye Villaseñor has exhibited as part of several exhibitions throughout San Diego including South Central Library in Chula Vista, the Student Gallery at Southwestern College, the Adam D. Kamil Gallery at UCSD, and most recently at the Athenaeum Music and Arts Library in La Jolla.

Primarily focused on oil painting, Leslye's creations delve into the essence of human consciousness, memory, perception, and the rawness of human emotion based upon her own personal experience, direct observation, and philosophical underpinnings. Most of her work, which features melancholic and haunting themes, aims to capture a moment in time allowing audience members to feel connected with and insert themselves into these dream-like scenarios. More recently, during her work with the New Native Narratives Apprenticeship Program, Leslye explored the idea of imperfection in discarded materials where the shadow of a material's past purpose remains.

Now at the precipice of her budding professional career, Leslye is eager to dedicate herself completely to experimentation, research and creation. The studio space will allow Leslye to immerse herself in the arts community located at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station allowing her to find greater inspiration from her surroundings. She will be moving into the new space at the beginning of January.

This year's selections were made by a panel of NTCF Art in Public Places committee members, Josemar Gonzales (artist), Armando Nunez (artist), and Perry Vasquez (artist and Southwestern College professor), well-known individuals from San Diego's arts and culture scene each with a unique and culturally diverse perspective.

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About NTC Foundation

NTC Foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating this signature community asset and creating, facilitating, and operating ARTS DISTRICT as a 100-acre creative district. Visitors experience the arts, culture, creativity, and cuisine that are the hallmarks of the San Diego region and enjoy innovative experiences in a historic setting at Liberty Station that inspire lives for generations to come. www.ntcfoundation.org

About ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station

ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 100 park-like acres, the ARTS DISTRICT is home to nearly 145 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, fine dining, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public.