



WHAT IS LOVE? ART SHOW

Presentation to Finalists – February 24, 2026

Library | Parks and Recreation Center

About the Art Show

Cultural Arts – Art Gallery Program

The first 2026 art gallery show opened on February 6th at the Library | Parks and Recreation Center, 3rd floor gallery.

Forty-five exceptional artworks are on display.

The live exhibition will end on February 27.

What Is Love?

The juried art exhibition prompted artists to explore their unique perspectives on love.

Ten artists were awarded for their interpretation of the theme.

The award-winning art may be viewed in a virtual gallery. Visit www.ssfca.gov/CulturalArts

3-Dimensional Art Finalists

February 2026

3rd PLACE: “Pound of Love”



Artist: **Lindsey Tsuboi**

Crochet newborn dress

I'm a NICU nurse, and I crocheted this pink dress for a premature baby born at 1.2 pounds. I cared for her for months, celebrating every milestone. Each stitch carried hope and love. This dress is a keepsake of her strength, a tiny miracle.

2ND PLACE: “Self Love”



Artist: **Alexa Galarze**

Acrylic paint, glue, recycled paper, sculpture-mask

Self love! Don't forget to show yourself some love. Even those thorny parts, the growing parts, the uncomfortable parts, the parts of yourself that you may not like very much. Love those parts too, because they you are.

1ST PLACE: “Dowry: Soul & Body”



Artist: **Chai A'lilharder**

Ceramic

Dowry is a pair of double-walled ginger jars. The inner vessel reminds us to love the character, not just the appearance, of one's spouse. Chinese characters on the outer wall wish abundance for the newlyweds, both in **Body** (firewood, rice, oil, salt, etc) and **Soul** (poetry, painting, wine etc.)



2-Dimensional Art Finalists

February 2026

HONORABLE MENTION: “9 Lives of Love”



Artist: **Jocelin Robles**

Acrylic on canvas

Cats are full of love. They show it by cuddling, listening, following you, and being by your side at all times. I return that love with head kisses, naps together, quality time, taking hundreds of photos, and always spoiling them. This painting represents the silly memories we make.

HONORABLE MENTION: “A Quiet Embrace”



Artist: **Xuan My Ho**

Mosaic

A Quiet Embrace portrays two figures standing close beneath a sheltering tree, their forms woven from glass and stone. Subtle gestures and textured surroundings evoke intimacy, warmth, and connection - love expressed softly, without words, in a shared moment of stillness.

HONORABLE MENTION: “Love In Bloom”



Artist: **Xuan My Ho**

Mosaic

Love in Bloom captures affection in full flourish - soft pastel blossoms emerging from luminous shell and stone, embraced by vibrant leaves. Tiny ladybugs add playful moments of luck and devotion, celebrating love's quiet beauty, growth, and harmony in nature.

HONORABLE MENTION: “Garden of Joy”



Artist: **John Romano**

Archival digital print

Flowers are a traditional symbol of love, and growing vegetables, herbs, and flowers to nurture and share with family and friends is an act of love. Taking photos of my garden's bounty to create digital art prints to share with others commemorates the labor of love and the beauty of the harvest.

3rd PLACE: "Abracadabra"

Artist: **Kavita Srinivasan** (a.k.a. "Qwee")

Pencil, pencil color, watercolor, sketch pen

Love is magic, and I found it when I held my baby sister for the first time. **Abracadabra** is a view into that moment that turned my heart around. It is inspired by a real-life story (inscribed in the background) I wrote for my sister's birthday.



2nd PLACE: “Love Everlasting”

Artist: **Suzanne Notario**

Mixed media collage

This mixed media collage features the beautiful and unique fan-shaped ginkgo leaves. The ginkgo biloba tree is the oldest living species and is a powerful symbol of love, enduring hope, and resilience. The ginkgo represents lasting bonds and is often used as a wedding theme.



1st PLACE: “Embraced: A Return to Love”



Artist: **Ashley Blanco**

Oil painting

Embraced: A Return to Love captures the joyous expression of love in our faces and body composition. Love lights up the mind and expresses its presence through movement and stillness. The figures in the painting represent a core requirement of love. That is giving starts with receiving.

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION AWARD



Artist: **Gabriela Garcia**

Acrylic painting

My Dad came to San Francisco from Mexico. I have watched him work hard everyday to provide for my family. He was a Muni driver for many years. I loved riding his routes as a little girl. My love for SF is because of him and his sacrifices.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THE FINALISTS

THANK YOU

FOR JOINING US TODAY



“WHAT IS LOVE?” ART SHOW FINALISTS
City of South San Francisco