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Top: The Mission Federal ArtWalk features an area for children to show their artistic side. **Above:** you could always people-watch at ArtWalk, but the focus of the event is the fine art on view and for sale. Courtesy photos

See lots of art in Little Italy

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SAN DIEGO — Three North County residents are among the 12 featured artists at the Mission Federal ArtWalk in the city's Little Italy neighborhood on Saturday and April 25.

Encinitas' Karen Eastman, Carlsbad's Wade Koniakowsky and Del Mar's Diane Christiansen Uke will see their artwork exposed to an expected 120,000 people roaming 16 blocks on the lookout for fine art, some live entertainment and — of course — food.

There will be around 300 artists from San Diego County and beyond, all more than willing to send attendees on their way with some new decorative pieces for their homes.

Eastman is an oil painter whose favorite metaphors relate to the beauty of trees. Koniakowsky also works in oils, but his works reveal a

fascination with the ocean. Uke is a mixed media artist who is exhibited at the Del Mar Art Center Gallery. Her works examine the interplay between the organic world of nature and the mechanized world of man.

Visual art (work on canvas) will be widespread, from oils, pastels and photography, but there will be other forms at ArtWalk, too — sculptures, glasswork and pottery.

Music and dance are forms of art, too, right? There will be more than 30 performances on six stages from musical acts — including Steph Johnson, Ashley Matte and Steven Ybarra — and dance groups.

Parents who fear their children won't show the same interest can shuffle the youngsters to KidsWalk, which features painting, sculpture, drawing, even a drum circle. This year's edition will have a project where children can decorate shoes

that will be sent to the needy. Children also have the opportunity to use recycled and reclaimed items for their own art pieces. They can design their dream bedrooms or contribute to a mural project. KidsWalk is in Little Italy's Amici Park and Washington Elementary School.

New to 2010 is Artes de Mexico, which honors the bicentennial of Mexico's independence movement. Two artists from Rosarito will show their Mexican history-themed works. The installation will be at India and Cedar streets.

ArtWalk is free and runs from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. ArtWalk's footprint extends from the trolley stop between Beech and Cedar streets (southern border of event), to the northern end on Fir Street. Kettner, India and Columbia are the primary cross streets. India Street will be closed to vehicles.

Call 619-615-1090 or visit missionfederalartwalk.org.

