

SEIMANDI & LEPRIEUR ART GALLERY

A Refined Exhibition Space For Contemporary Caribbean Art

Seimandi & Leprieur is a newly opened gallery in the heart of Downtown Santa Barbara's lively art, shopping and theater district. Founded by French couple **Fanny Seimandi** and **Julien Leprieur**, the gallery is a reflection of their deep, long-standing passion for contemporary Caribbean art.

After spending a decade living in Martinique, immersed in its rich creative scene, the couple relocated to Santa Barbara with their young family, driven by a desire to share the work of the island artists they had come to admire and collect. What emerged is a thoughtfully curated gallery and exhibition space—one that extends their personal story, artistic values and enduring relationships with the artists they represent.

With its minimalist design aesthetic, the gallery offers an immersive, distraction-free setting for viewers to fully engage with the work. The exhibition program includes both solo and group shows, spotlighting recognized artists with established careers—many of whom have long-standing ties to the founders and are represented in major institutional collections in Europe and the United States.

We recently sat down with Fanny and Julien to hear more about their journey, their inspirations and the vision behind Seimandi & Leprieur.

How do you approach shaping the space and exhibitions, and what draws you to an artist's work?

When we renovated the historic Bluebird Café, a legendary music venue, we preserved its soul while creating a space that honors the highest standards of contemporary art. We curate with care, selecting artists whose work we have followed for years, works that embody presence, precision and lasting impact. If it moves us deeply and holds power, it's a "yes."

What brought you from Martinique to Santa Barbara, and how has that influenced your journey?

Having loved American culture since our adolescence, we were drawn to Santa Barbara's luminous beauty, creative energy and spirit of openness. We've always loved traveling, and we wanted to share this passion with our children while building a bridge between cultures. The fresh morning air here was a surprising but refreshing change from the Caribbean!

Are there any up-and-coming artists and exhibitions that have you especially excited right now?

We're excited to open our next group show in early October, centered on tropical imagination, featuring artists including Dora Vital, Karine Tailame and Pierre Roy-Camille. Pierre's haunting paintings evoke sunken cities, ghostly architecture and lush landscapes. His deliberately ambiguous work blends painting, print and drawing, creating a subtle sense of wonder. He has particularly designed window displays for Hermès in Shanghai.

What's next for the gallery — any dreams or new directions ahead?

Santa Barbara deserves more than safe, decorative art. Many collectors travel to L.A., San Francisco or even Miami to find contemporary work that's truly ambitious and beautiful. We want to change that. Starting in 2026, we will host an annual exhibition dedicated to emerging local talent, part of our long-term vision to make this gallery a destination for serious, inspiring art.

33 West Anapamu Street • 805.610.1203

To see other artists currently represented by
Seimandi & Leprieur, head to seimandileprieur.com



"We believe contemporary art still has the power to move, challenge and uplift—when it rejects shortcuts and embraces beauty, depth and rigor. Our gallery champions artists who work with vision and intensity and offers them a space where their work, rich in depth and presence, can resonate fully."

Owners, Fanny Seimandi and
Julien Leprieur

