

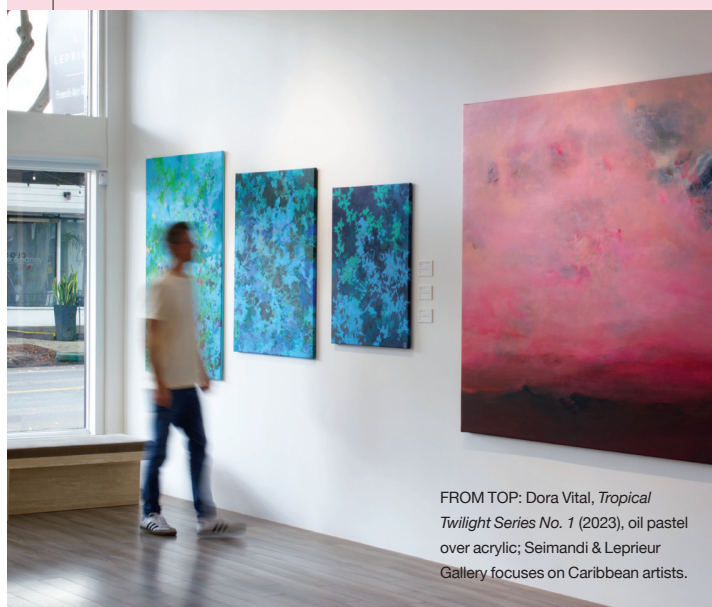


French Connection

The art scene in Santa Barbara is becoming more global, as evidenced by the recent opening of **SEIMANDI & LEPRIEUR GALLERY**, helmed by French couple Fanny Seimandi and Julien Leprieur. The couple recently relocated to California after a decade on the island of Martinique in the Caribbean, where Seimandi, who holds master's degrees in art, served as a judge, and Leprieur worked as an engineer and entrepreneur. Both are extremely passionate about contemporary art, especially work by emerging Caribbean artists who are just starting to receive international recognition.

Part of the gallery's stated ambition is to broaden the visibility of these artists and to present their work in conditions "that match its visual strength and conceptual depth." To that end, Paris-born artist Dora Vital, who lives and works in Martinique, is the focus of a solo show, *Jardin Nocturne*, at the gallery from December 4 through February 21. Local photographer and creative director Jen Huang Bogan, the show's co-curator, was struck by Vital's luscious, layered compositions in pastel, oil, and acrylic.

"These works beautifully describe the juxtaposition of the richness and brevity of life as it cycles through the seasons," Huang Bogan says. "They are a nod to the winter equinox, where daylight is softened but not bleak. Floral wisps and misty leaves swirl amongst the shadows of the pieces I chose, and they seem to say, in order for flowers to dance in the light, they must first be reborn beneath the earth." 33 W. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, **SEIMANDILEPRIEUR.COM**. L.D.P.



FROM TOP: Dora Vital, *Tropical Twilight Series No. 1* (2023), oil pastel over acrylic; Seimandi & Leprieur Gallery focuses on Caribbean artists.

Simply Irresistible

SULLIVAN GOSS—AN AMERICAN GALLERY has maintained a strong, steady presence in the cultural life of Santa Barbara for more than 40 years. With an inventory of more than 3,000 paintings, watercolors, prints, and sculptures, the gallery plays an important role in documenting American art from the 19th through the 21st centuries with curated exhibitions and scholarly publications. Its annual holiday show, *100 Grand*, offers 100 works of art for \$1,000 or less, providing novice collectors the opportunity to acquire quality artwork by both seasoned and emerging artists. (This year's show runs through December 28.)

Also on view in December is *Irresistible: Flowers & Their Admirers*, curated by gallery director Jeremy Tessmer, which includes work by renowned historical and contemporary artists. To usher in 2026, Sullivan Goss will celebrate Oskar Fischinger, a master of early nonobjective painting and a pioneer of multimedia immersive environments. 11 E. Anapamu St., Santa Barbara, **SULLIVANGOSS.COM**. L.D.P.



John Millei, *Memento Mori* (2025), oil and flashe on canvas.