

# RANCHO SANTA FE REVIEW

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## Local artist brings North County beauty to ArtWalk on the Bay in Sept. 13, 14

By Matt Liebowitz

On most days, Catherine Dzialo-Haller, a painter and local resident, can be found at the ocean. But don't look for her on the beach, surfing, sunning or swimming.

A contemporary realist painter, Dzialo-Haller's work is indelibly tied to the beauty of her hometown's coastline. Wielding oil paint and a fanatic appreciation and observational eye, Dzialo-Haller's work is indelibly tied to the vibrant scenes—swimming, picnics, rollerskating—she sees on and along local beaches everyday.

She mostly paints in her home studio, but brings her camera down to the beach in Cardiff as well as Del Mar to capture what she'll later put on canvas.

"The beach has always been primary in my life," said Dzialo-Haller, who graduated with a degree in fine art from the Academy of Art University in San Francisco, and for 15 years lived in Hawaii. "I love the ocean, I couldn't imagine life without it."

Along with renderings of tranquil inactivity—beach umbrellas, palm trees—Southern California's prized pastime is one of Dzialo-Haller's prime subjects.

"I love paintings surfers. Not surfing, but contemplating," Dzialo-Haller said. "There's a solitude and loneliness surfers project, even if they're with a lot of people. I try to capture that."

Moments of playful excitement also inspire Dzialo-Haller.

"I like bodies in motion and candid, everyday scenes," she



Artist Catherine Dzialo-Haller

said. "I like the simple things people do—pictures of everyday life."

On Sept. 13 and 14, Dzialo-Haller will be bringing between 20 and 25 of her beach-influenced pieces to the 3rd Annual ArtWalk on the Bay, a free event at Embarcadero Marine Park North featuring more than 100 artists displaying their work, including paintings, photography, jewelry, sculpture, and art glass, in an open-air gallery.

Dzialo-Haller has showcased her paintings the past three years at ArtWalk by the Bay, and for the past 10 years at ArtWalk San Diego, in Little Italy. Her paintings can also be seen at the Scott James East Village gallery.

Dzialo-Haller is eager to showcase at ArtWalk, and hopefully give tourists a taste of the delight she draws from at local beaches.

"San Diego is a beautiful place to live," she said. "Visitors like to take a part of it home with them. And this is smaller than the big Art Walks, and more personal. It gives local artists great exposure to local people."

In the past, Dzialo-Haller has received calls months after ArtWalk from interested parties, and even sold a painting to a man in Poway building a beach-themed guest house.

Dzialo-Haller is also interested in giving back to the smiling kids that make up many of her paintings.

In the fall, she will volunteer in ArtReach, a collaborative art program for first through sixth graders in the San Diego Unified School District.

"I had so many good teachers influencing and encouraging me in school. I feel so enriched by my love of art, and I hope I can do that for one kid. It's good karma."