

Art Happenings

Check out the Western, Cowboy Scenes of Artist Antonio Savarese

By Sharon Sullivan

Utah's western landscapes made a lasting impression on Moab artist Antonio Savarese, who grew up in the Four Corners region.

Using oil on canvas Savarese, 41, enjoys painting classic cowboy scenes, inspired from western cinema still shots. He also creates iconic western landscapes using acrylic on thick paper stock, from which he makes a limited number of prints. His work hangs at the Desert Bistro restaurant, 36 S. 100 West, in Moab and at Moab Made, 82 N. Main St. – a shop showcasing the work of local artists and artisans.

Savarese's western-themed original oil paintings are one-of-a-kind, 8-by-8-inch canvases – of which he doesn't make prints. Savarese sells anywhere from 70-100 oil paintings per year at the reasonable price of \$150.

"For me it's a passion," he said.

Savarese served as Community Artist in the Park in 2019 – where he spent seven months painting in plein air at

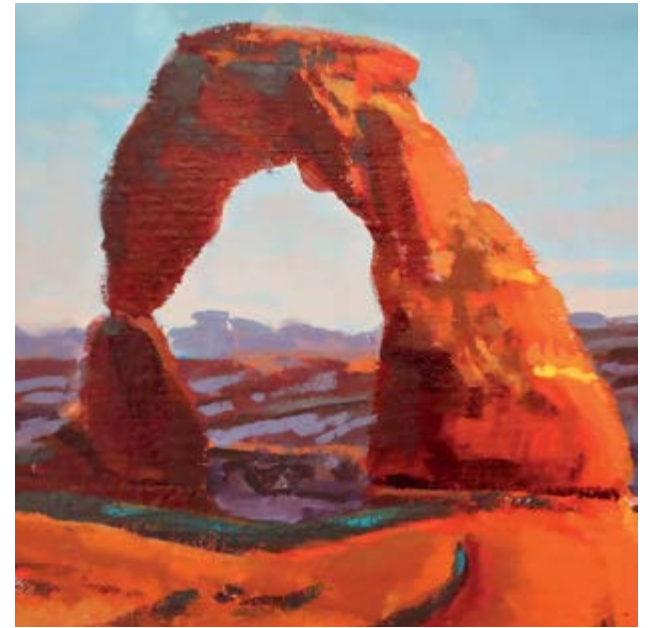
Arches and Canyonlands national parks, and Hovenweep and Natural Bridges national monuments. During his tenure as community artist he created works that were sold in park visitor center gift shops.

Visitors would often stop to watch and talk with Savarese while he worked – which Savarese said helped him to better communicate one-on-one with people about his art, passion and process.

"It was one of the most unique, amazing experiences of my life," he said. "I am forever grateful for the experience."

Most of the time Savarese prefers working in the controlled environment of his studio, where he works from photos he takes while hiking the public lands surrounding Moab.

Savarese sells a lot of his paintings via Instagram, and at Moab Made – where owner Rebecca McAllister is known for championing local artists and artisans.



"Rebecca has been awesome," Savarese said. "Rebecca is a really good teacher," when it comes to dealing with the business side of things, as well as offering inspiration. Moab Made has been instrumental for me learning about the process of marketing; the process of curating, packaging, labeling, and how to price things."

Savarese has published work in the *Dictionary of Utah Fine Artists* by Vern Swanson, former curator/director of the Springville Museum of Art. And, in 2023, he was an invited artist for Western Gallery's "After the Gold Rush" show in Austin, Texas.

His web site is www.antoniosavarese.com.

To view Savarese's latest creations visit his Instagram site.

https://www.instagram.com/coyote_lovely_studio/

And be sure to mention you read about it in *Moab Happenings*.

Sidewalk Joy and Miniature Art take the Stage at Moab Arts with Artist in Resident Ginger Cyan

The Moab Arts Reuse Residency, an annual program produced by Moab Arts in partnership with Canyonlands Solid Waste Authority and WabiSabi, announces local artist Ginger Cyan as the March 2025 artist in residence.

In 2024, the Moab Arts Residency program hosted its first Local's Residency Session with artists Jess Hough and Pete Apicella. We are excited to continue the Local's Session this year for a six-week term starting in late February and continuing into early April. The Moab Arts Residency program launched in 2021 and has welcomed artists who thoughtfully consider their studio practice through the lens of sustainability and reuse. The program grants artists access to materials at local waste disposal and recycling sites, in addition to providing studio space and a stipend. In exchange, artists provide opportunities for learning, dialogue and enrichment within the community, including artist talks, free workshops, and more. Thus far, the program has hosted 10 artists, both visiting and local, from diverse backgrounds including architects, puppeteers, educators, and curators.

Ginger Cyan is a Disaster Communicator (both as a job and sometimes literally) and storyteller who has called Moab home for the past six years. When they are not deployed to disaster sites, Ginger spends most of their free time in their studio space at the Moab Arts Center making handbound tiny books or finding desert hiding spots to write in. They received a regional Murrow award for their work producing the podcast "Lift Up: LGBTQ+ Visibility" which highlighted the experiences of rural queer individuals.

Ginger is deeply inspired by the potential for creativity to transform the materials we discard and also the spaces we walk through every day. Sidewalk Joy is an exploration of this transformation: turning overlooked public spaces and discarded objects into moments of surprise, beauty, and connection. These tiny installations are meant to inspire whimsy and wonder while inviting people to pause and experience a moment of unexpected beauty in their everyday lives. This work is rooted in the belief that art can be accessible to all.

In a town like Moab, where the natural landscape is the star, this work hopes to introduce a playful counterpoint: a reminder that beauty and wonder can be found in the smallest and most unexpected places. In this project, Ginger is not just making art; she is inviting the community to see the world through a new lens – one that values sustainability, creativity, and the joy of discovery. Ginger hopes to ignite



Ginger and her installation *Discarded Memories* at the 2024 Red Rock Arts Festival Community Art Show (photo by Robert Sterry)

a conversation about the power of reuse and the endless possibilities for creative expression in a world full of waste.

During her time at the Moab Arts Residency, Ginger plans to curate Moab's own Sidewalk Joy Map and a miniature art gallery museum that will be housed at Moab Arts. Ginger will host a series of events throughout the Residency to explore both projects. All events will be free and open to the public. The Moab Map of Sidewalk Joy will feature numerous art projects that have been created by other community members, including other Reuse Artists-in-Residence. This crowd-sourcing scavenger hunt will be an opportunity for community members to help us find some



Red Rocks, Ginger, and Mini Books (photo courtesy of Ginger Cyan)



Ginger at DIY Fest in Salt Lake City hosting a vendor booth (photo courtesy of Ginger Cyan)

of these art pieces. In a hands-on workshop, join us to make miniature art out of recycled objects for the Little Free Art Gallery. Similarly to the Little Free Library; anyone can take, rearrange, or add artwork to this space. To culminate the Residency, join a walking tour of the completed Sidewalk Joy map during the April ArtWalk and check out the Mini Gallery of Art to see what has been built and collected throughout the month.

Introduction to Sidewalk Joy and Scavenger Hunt:

Friday, March 7 from 4–6pm

Miniature Making Workshop:

Tuesday, March 11 from 6–8 pm

Sidewalk Joy Celebration:

Friday, April 4 from 5–8 pm during the ArtWalk

Call for local art to contribute to the Museum of Miniature Art: *All month long*

Follow Ginger on socials at @zeldaboden and @forthelibraryof

To learn more about the residency program, including information about the projects of past residents, visit www.moabarts.org/residency. Follow Moab Arts on social media (@moabarts on Instagram and @Moab Arts - The MARC on Facebook) and sign up for our newsletter at www.moabarts.org for updates.

Questions about the residency program and artists? Reach out to Moab Arts staff at marcadmin@moabcity.gov or via phone at 435-259-6272.