

#### **Angie Jerez**

Artist intro alert! Angie Jerez is a muralist and visual artist originally from Bogotá, Colombia, now based in Atlanta, GA, with a background in graphic design. Her work uses abstract and whimsical compositions, through which she explores her identity and past. She also runs a pixel art project @945bit, where she experiments with her style aesthetic. Go check it out!

Her work brings vibrant scenes to life, and she deeply enjoys the process of transforming urban landscapes and communities. "The process of painting in public is just as meaningful as the final piece," she says, "As the mural takes shape, people become curious—they stop to watch, ask questions, or share their own stories. I love how these conversations often start with art but naturally evolve into deeper discussions about life and community."

Angie loves observing how people live and how places visually express their identity. This will be her first time in Utah, and she's looking forward to doing just that and exploring the local food, culture, and aesthetics of our city!

# **Connor Weight**

This year we're doing something a little bit different. In order to infuse fresh, youthful creativity into Mural Fest and foster the next generation of South Salt Lake artists, we wanted to find a way to incorporate some of our talented young people into Mural Fest 2025. That's why we are partnering with @onekindactaday and local artist @connor.weight to create a mural in collaboration with youth from the Woodrow Wilson Elementary @PromiseSSL afterschool program.

Connor will be working with the youth, guiding them through the process of designing and executing large-scale works of art, and showing them what it means to be an artist participating in a world-renowned arts event like Mural Fest.

Their work will become a permanent fixture on the wall outside of Whitlock Park for the youth, their families, and the greater community to visit for years to come.

We're so excited to have a creative, professional artist like Connor Weight leading this project, and can't wait to see what he and our youth come up with! Join us at Mural Fest on May 10 to see for yourself! More info at <u>themuralfest.com</u>!

# DAAS

Back by popular demand, we can't wait to welcome back @daas to Mural Fest 2025! This year will be DAAS's second visit to Mural Fest, having painted the south wall of South Salt Lake City Hall in 2024 (See photo #2). This year he's coming back to finish the job, painting the west and north walls of our city headquarters. Once completed, the total painted area of the building will exceed 10,000 feet, making it one of the largest pieces of public art in the state! DAAS strives for every piece to uplift the community in which it lives. He calls on bold lines, vibrant colors, and local imagery to create enormous works that integrate seamlessly into the local landscape.

On the south side of SSL City Hall, DAAS utilized bright colors found across Utah's diverse scenery–colors of deserts, mountains, lakes, and the sky–to create a dynamic, abstract landscape. The only thing we don't like about this mural is that it can only be seen from one side of the building.

#### **Fabian Rey**

Next up in our Who's-Who of Mural Fest 2025, we are pleased to announce Fabian Rey–painter, photographer, and artistic director based out of Austin, Texas! Fabian arrived in Texas from Puerto Rico in 2015, and immediately immersed himself in the Austin arts scene. He embarked on an ambitious street photography project entitled Creatures of Austin, taking portraits of people in the community–artists, musicians, pedicap drivers, and others dedicated to "keeping Austin weird."

His approach to painting evokes a quote by the great jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker, "You gotta practice your instrument, learn the music. But when you're on the bandstand, forget all that and just wail." Fabian comes to mural painting with a classically-trained background, studying under Puerto Rican artist Francisco Cervani and later at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and Art School of Florence. With that said, his style is anything but classical. His walls are bright, playful, community-driven works of art, all based in an aggressively unique and personal style. Community is an ever present theme in his work, and we can't wait to welcome him, and his work, into our own community here in South Salt Lake!

### GOMAD

Marcus Debie, more commonly known in the art world as GOMAD, is bringing his surrealistic post-graffiti style to Mural Fest 2025. GOMAD is a Dutch color-blind muralist with roots in graffiti, which he started in 1985. An international muralist and urban fine artist, his artworks and murals can be found in over 15 countries and are a mind bending treat to the eye.

GOMAD was heavily influenced by the graffiti documentary 'Style Wars', which kickstarted his art career. Today, he combines oil paint, acrylics, and sprays to create colorful and expressive pieces.

He says, "Street Art, muralism and graffiti is by far the largest art movement on planet earth so I am glad I am a part of that. It gives me the opportunity to express myself by making storytelling murals all over the world and experience different cultures and meet a lot of people with the same passion. Making the world more beautiful with public art for everyone to enjoy."

#### Mantra

A consummate artist and naturalist, Mantra is fascinated by the world of entomology. He is known for enormous, photo-realistic portraits of moths and butterflies painted on urban walls. He often depicts the insects as lifeless specimens displayed in an exhibit case, a comment on lost biodiversity and value placed on dead and harvested wildlife over its living counterpart. During his stay in South Salt Lake, Mantra hopes to get outside to find some of the local species that he has chosen to depict in his new piece. Come to Mural Fest on May 10 to see which species he has chosen!

# **Mike Murdock**

Today we're introducing you to a Mural Fest artist who hails from Utah! Mike Murdock is an iconic muralist, creating unique and zany patterns with colorful shapes and fun linework.

In addition to painting murals, he is also an artist and freelance illustrator, well-versed in several mediums including sculptures, zines, stickers, and doodles. Mike's favorite ongoing side project is an imaginary skateboard company called @thewigglestick, where he assembles found objects into skateboard sculptures and paints on them. The best advice he offers to emerging artists is to paint authentically, a message Mike himself exemplifies through his projects.

Mike is proud to live in Utah (SLC), and he has contributed much to Utah arts scene over the years, including the iconic painted blue whale on 9th and 9th (slide 5). He says, "I love sharing my artwork on a large scale for people to look at and hopefully add a small bright spot to someone's day. This city is my home, and I take great pride in being a visual contributor to the landscape. Putting something I've made out into the world allows me to interact with others in the community and gives me a pretty magical personal sense of fulfillment to boot."

# **Osiris Rain**

Since 1986, Osiris Rain has been unveiling the truths about our collective human experience through his murals and post-contemporary figurative art. Osiris has received acclaim and praise for his art around the world, and he is constantly giving back to the art community through engagement initiatives.

He established Osiris Rain Studios as an initiative to showcase his art and support aspiring artists, and currently, Osiris is bringing his latest passion project to life through the TAOH Outdoor Gallery, Charlotte, NC's first public art and graffiti park. Founded in collaboration with the Piece for Peace movement, it is a cultural hub for events, workshops, and creative community engagement. You can learn more at @taohoutdoorgallery or www.taohoutdoorgallery.com.

Osiris' murals create a narrative, transforming public spaces into reflections of the community and individuals that live there. We are beyond excited to see what he does at this year's Mural Fest. He says, "Murals give me the opportunity to tell the story of a place and its people, creating artwork that brings joy, pride, and a sense of identity to a space. While I naturally tend to keep to myself and value solitude, painting murals provides a unique way for me to engage with others in an authentic and meaningful way. It becomes a bridge for honest conversations, shared experiences, and deep connections with the communities I work with."

### Peggy Flavin

Peggy Flavin is best known for her large-scale murals combining elements of nature with bold color palettes and surreal landscapes. While her home base is Utah, you can find her work in public and private sites across the US, sometimes in uniquely interactive locations or on unconventional surfaces including climbing walls and solar panels.

Peggy strongly believes in connecting people through art. She says: "Whether I am creating in my own community or visiting somewhere else, I think it's important to create dialogue and build connections with people throughout the process. Art helps me engage with all the different communities that I'm part of— other muralists, the outdoors community, people from all over. I get to share what I love through my work, and I also learn more about what other people love and care about in their communities."

# RISK

RISK is an artist of firsts: the first to paint west coast freight trains, first to paint full-color pieces along the Los Angeles freeway, and the first artist to paint in Michaelangelo's studio in over 400 years. He has been a prominent figure in the west coast street art scene for the better part of four decades, and continues to innovate with every project. He has collaborated with musicians and bands by the likes of Blink 182, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Slash, and Aerosmith, who recognized him as their own counterpart in the world of visual art.

RISK has worked with brands including the NFL, Monster Energy, Indian Motorcycles, and Marvel Studios, bringing street art to thousands of people who would otherwise never encounter his work, and bridging the gap between graffiti and graphic design.

#### Sandra Fettingis

Sandra Fettingis focuses on designing timeless, site-specific patterns for her public art projects, carefully examining locations and project goals to achieve harmonious and purposeful integration. Currently based in Denver, CO, her roots in Chicago and a multicultural family instilled a deep-seated interest in pattern, architecture, and street art, significantly influencing her perspective and artistic approach today.

"Art offers us a different perspective of the world. I am always drawn to line, and nature specifically," she says. Natural environments inspire Sandra's geometric, dynamic, and meditative patterns, symbolizing plant life as metaphors for personal and communal growth and connection.

Since her debut mural in Chicago in 2007, Sandra has crafted over 80 large-scale artworks and has had her work exhibited nationally and internationally. Physical work, such as sculptural wall work, has also played a role in Sandra's practice. She created her first public suspended installation for Denver's CU Spur Campus in 2022, and aspires to continue playing with the intersection of architecture and art.

# TOOFLY

Maria "TOOFLY" Castillo was born in Ecuador and raised in New York City. She's a multidisciplinary artist, designer, educator, and entrepreneur. She was one of the first women to break into the male dominated New York street art scene of the early 90's, and through the @ladiesloveproject, continues to guide and mentor women following in her footsteps. Her work is bold and colorful, often featuring women as subjects surrounded by iconography of her two homes, the countryside of Ecuador and the streets of NYC.

For TOOFLY, the joy of mural painting is the opportunity to connect with a community-the small interactions with neighbors who stop by to ask what she's working on. It's a unique opportunity for an artist to see in real time the effect that her work has on a community, and get to know the people who will appreciate it.

#### Wingchow

Wingchow is a Chinese-American muralist and fine artist who began her career in Richmond, VA. Her distinctive style is characterized by colorful, amorphous, bubbly forms. You can find her works on walls and in galleries across the United States and beyond.

Wingchow is inspired by the simple joys, a search for meaning, and the unseen connections found in between. When asked what advice she would give to aspiring muralist artists, Wingchow says, "Just get out and paint! Make your own opportunities. The first mural I spray painted was on the side of a friend's garage. The more energy and good intentions you put out into the world through your work, the more good you'll receive in return."