

WEEKEND



AT CALTECH

Kristina Olsen says no to fame, yes to great music.

STORY B4

ONLINE FIND SOMETHING TO DO AND GET THE LATEST ENTERTAINMENT, ARTS & CULTURE NEWS

Artist Tony Peters loves 'Eclectic L.A.'

By Michelle J. Mills, SGVN
twitter.com/mickieszoo

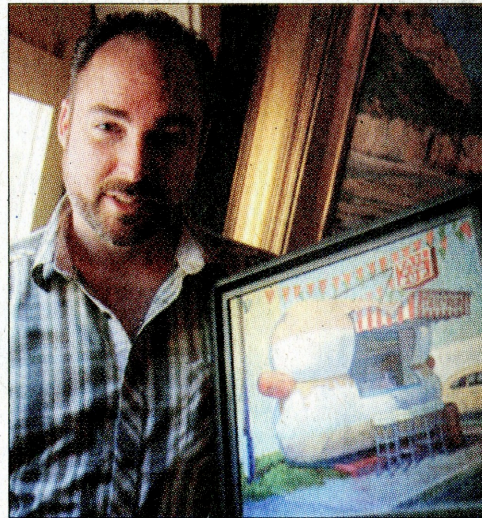
Go anywhere in the world and tell anyone who asks that you're from Los Angeles and you will probably get a smile. The city is known as the place where dreams ebb and flow and fortunes can change in an instant. It also boasts some of the best architecture to spark creativity.

American Legacy Fine Arts in Pasadena pays homage to the town with the exhibit, "Eclectic L.A. - Four Perspectives," opening Saturday. The show features contemporary-traditional urban landscape paintings by Eric Merrell, Alexander V. Orlov, Tony Peters and Scott W. Prior.

"There's something about Hollywood, Los Angeles, where people go there to make it big, they're going to become a star," Peters said. "It's where the story takes place, not just for myself and wanting to become an artist, but also of a lot of people."

San Diego resident Peters attended Art Center College of Design and lived in L.A. for 10 years. While in school, he was an assistant at the Mendenhall Gallery in Pasadena where he met and later apprenticed with painters including Richard Bunkall, Ray Turner and Mark Ryden. He has been a full-time artist since 1999 despite his initial doubts.

"When I was 18 years old, I had this realization that oh my god, I'm an artist, I'm in trouble," Peters said. "I had never met an artist and I had only gone to a handful of museums, but I just knew that I wanted to be



Keith Birmingham Staff Photographer

Tony Peters with one of his paintings in the "Eclectic LA — Four Perspectives" exhibit in Pasadena.

a painter of some kind. There was something about it I was drawn to. The process of making art seemed that it's like therapy; or it's consolation, controlled by the process of making art and looking at beautiful things."

While in college, Peters spent many hours photographing various Hollywood locations and over the years he has revisited those spots to take additional photographs. He

shoots at the same angle he did previously, taking advantage of his updated equipment to better capture the nuances of the scene.

"I shoot a lot of photography because I want to get something not just about the place and the light, but about the mood," Peters said.

He is particularly drawn to early architecture and old movie theaters. He likes buildings featuring ornamentation for beauty, rather than structures built merely for function.

"The time period of the pre-war era when things were built with a lot more care — I think that stylistically I relate to that, I really love that, I wish that we still did that architecture," Peters said.

At the easel, Peters works in layers, allowing each layer to dry before adding more paint. His works can take weeks or months to complete. Although the scenes are recognizable, Peters likes to add things that aren't there and play with the color and composition to create a more pleasing picture.

His first shows were about Los Angeles and urban landscape and after a few years as a

ELECTIC L.A. — FOUR PERSPECTIVES

Opens Saturday. By appointment 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. through Dec. 10

American Legacy Fine Arts, Pasadena
626-577-7733

www.americanlegacyfinearts.com

Opening reception, 4 to 6 p.m.

Saturday. Free, but call for an invitation and directions

figure artist, is moving back to that.

Participating in "Eclectic L.A." has Peters charged up.

"I think the urban landscape of Los Angeles has become a sort of genre now, whereas when I started doing this, I didn't know many people who did this sort of thing and it was rather unique," Peters said.

michelle.mills@sgvn.com, 626-544-0846

Meet your next best friend at our upcoming
Dot Adoption Event