

MEDIA RELEASE



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Laguna College Alumnus Wins International Salon Competition

The Art Renewal Center (ARC) recently announced the winners of the Fifth International Salon Competition. Among those honored was Laguna College of Art & Design alumnus Sal Villagran. He received 3rd place in the Figurative Category for his oil on linen painting "Past Present Future". After receiving his Bachelor of Fine Arts at LCAD in 2002, Sal went on to obtain his graduate degree with honors from the New York Academy of Art in 2005 and has exhibited his work nationally.

The Art Renewal Center proudly presented more than \$70,000 to the top winners as well as more than 100 finalists and honorable mentions in the prestigious Salon Competition. This year's pattern of growth continued with over 1,600 entries from 30 different countries, and judges were encouraged by the ever increasing quality of work submitted. Young gifted artists from around the world who are beginning their careers were brought together in a single competition where the prestige of making it to the finals now carries significant weight with galleries, collectors and peers.

"I can't tell you how excited I am to be honored by an organization that continues to help set the standard and raises the bar for what contemporary realist artists must strive to meet. I am also very privileged that such esteemed artists and historians as the Maestro, Nelson Shanks, Paul Mckormick, Fred Ross (Chairman) and Gabriel Weisberg found my painting to be worthy of the 3rd place award in the Figurative Category," remarked Sal. "'Past Present Future' is a self portrait that comments on my upbringing and the values I was taught. Our foundations in life and in art are important to reflect on as a grounding point. They help build the structure for a strong future. It's a painting that I am proud to present."

The Art Renewal Center is dedicated to promoting a return of training, standards and excellence in the visual arts, as well as to advance the understanding that great art begins with great themes and expresses them poetically through mastery of all aspects of technique.

Images:

"Past Present Future", Oil on Linen
Sal Villagran

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Laguna College of Art & Design is a private, not-for-profit college where outstanding artist-educators, visual arts programs, state-of-the-art facilities, and year-round exhibitions give fresh vision to Laguna's extraordinary legacy in the visual arts. Founded in 1961, the college educates artists at all stages of their creative careers, offering Bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Game Art and Feature Animation, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in painting.
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