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## Artist Spotlight: Lorien Suarez

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04:38 PM PST on Sunday, November 2, 2008

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By **DANIEL FOSTER**  
Special to The Press-Enterprise

Lorien Suarez's multinational childhood and diverse academic background led her to Southern California eight years ago. It provided her with the inspiration and tools that define her artistic style and career.

Raised in Venezuela the first 13 years of her life, Suarez's family immigrated to Portland, Ore. She graduated with honors in history from UC Berkeley and then moved to Europe

for five years to pursue graduate studies in Belgium and Spain.

However, it was her arrival in San Diego, and eventual move to Riverside in 2004 when Suarez reclaimed her childhood love for art-making and her art career was born. Responding to the natural abundance of light and color in the region, Suarez specializes in organic designs and geometric abstract compositions found in nature.

"I am most alive when I'm painting," Suarez said. "My love for the beauty of color, geometry and nature is at the core of my artwork. While I am in the moment of creating art, I am open to a process of discovery that is intensely fulfilling for me."

### **How She Does It**

Working much larger in scale (5-7 foot paintings) than most watercolorists, Suarez utilizes a combination of transparent watercolor with a splash of opaque acrylic painting. These elaborate and multilayered designs and patterns create a sensation of movement.

Story continues below



Wheel Within a Wheel, No. 22.

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Over the last four years, Suarez's work has been included in curated exhibitions at the Millard Sheets Gallery, the Riverside Community Arts Association and the Riverside Art Museum (including the Giant Orange ARTventure in 2006).

She has received prizes and been selected for juried shows at the Palm Springs Art Museum, the Riverside Art Council's ArtScape at the Riverside County Administrative building, in addition to galleries in New York and Arizona.

For more information about the Artist Spotlight, contact Daniel Foster, Riverside Art Museum at 951-684-7111 or [DFoster@riversideartmuseum.org](mailto:DFoster@riversideartmuseum.org)

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### Lorien Suarez

**Showing:** Lorien Suarez's paintings will in the "Refraction" exhibition with Charles Arnoldi, Roland Reiss, Michael Hermann, Gina Lunn and John Ruth at the Quad Gallery at Riverside City College, 4800 Magnolia Ave., Riverside, 951-222-8358, Public hours: Monday-Friday 10-3, Thursday 5:30-8 pm) opening today and running through Dec.

1. The opening reception is Thursday from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

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**For more information** about Suarez and her paintings, visit [www.loriensuarez.com](http://www.loriensuarez.com)



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