



Saul Alegria

The Animals I've Painted!!

July 16 - September 5, 2026

Opening reception: July 16, 2026, 6-8pm

COOPER COLE is pleased to present a solo exhibition of paintings and ceramic sculptures by Richmond, California-based artist Saul Alegria.

This exhibition is organized in partnership with NIAD (Nurturing Independence through Artistic Development) in Richmond, CA. NIAD has been a cornerstone of the Bay Area arts community since 1982, supporting artists with intellectual and developmental disabilities across painting, ceramics, printmaking, textiles, and mixed media.

Working from images found in books at NIAD, Alegria paints animals with striking immediacy. Monarch butterflies, weevils, sea dragons, buffalo, birds, reptiles, and insects emerge through luminous, unexpected colour combinations that are both intuitive and assured. Asked how he arrives at his distinctive palettes, Alegria replied, "I choose the variety of color I choose." The answer reflects a practice guided by instinct rather than convention, where colour becomes a way of seeing as much as describing.

His ceramic sculptures continue this dialogue between observation and imagination. Familiar animals coexist with invented creatures, each approached with the same curiosity and care. He notes, "This ceramic bunny... is kind of really nice. I do love that green lizard. This (yellow) creature looks new, it's very intriguing. I just put a star on top... it's made up in my head."

Across both painting and ceramics, Alegria reimagines the natural world through instinctive colour, playful invention, and an unmistakably personal visual language. Rooted in curiosity and guided by intuition, his works invites you to encounter animals not as fixed subjects, but as endlessly expressive forms.



Saul Alegria (b. 1987) is a painter and sculptor based in the Bay Area. His works reimagine animals and insects in striking, electric shades of colour. In some paintings, Alegria offers tender, carefully-studied portraits of his animal subjects. In other images he transforms inhabitants of the natural world into flattened, potent symbols. His sculptures are powerful composite forms that combine familiar creatures with icons from mythic quests in video games.

Alegria's work was prominently featured in the landmark exhibition, "Into The Brightness" at the Oakland Museum of California, and in 2023, the OMCA acquired one of Alegria's paintings for their permanent collection. He has participated in group exhibitions at Bedford Gallery, Walnut Creek, CA; Sage Studio, Austin, TX; Narrative, Oakland, CA; Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, CA; and Petaluma Arts Center, Petaluma, CA. Saul Alegria has worked at NIAD Art Center in Richmond, CA since 2007.



Saul Alegria
Giraffe, 2022
 Acrylic on canvas
 36 (H) x 24 (W) inches
 91.44 (H) x 60.96 (W) cm
 S.Alegria0011



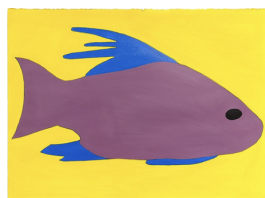
Saul Alegria
Sea Leopard, 2023
 Acrylic on canvas
 20 (H) x 24 (W) inches
 50.80 (H) x 60.96 (W) cm
 S.Alegria0014



Saul Alegria
Frog, 2020
 Acrylic on paper
 22.5 (H) x 28.5 (W) inches
 57.15 (H) x 72.39 (W) cm
 S.Alegria0001



Saul Alegria
Pelican, 2024
 Acrylic on paper
 22.5 (H) x 30 (W) inches
 57.15 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm
 S.Alegria0002



Saul Alegria
Chinamanfish, 2024
 Acrylic on paper
 22.5 (H) x 30 (W) inches
 57.15 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm
 S.Alegria0003



Saul Alegria

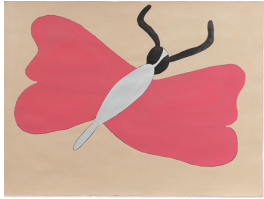
Muskrat, 2025

Acrylic on paper

22.5 (H) x 30 (W) inches

57.15 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0005



Saul Alegria

Monarch Butterfly, 2025

Acrylic on paper

22.5 (H) x 30 (W) inches

57.15 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0006



Saul Alegria

Leopard Frog, 2025

Acrylic on paper

20.5 (H) x 30 (W) inches

52.07 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0007



Saul Alegria

Sea Dragon, 2023

Acrylic on paper

22 (H) x 30 (W) inches

55.88 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0010



Saul Alegria

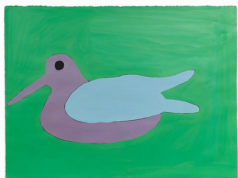
Common Branded Skipper, 2022

Acrylic on paper

22 (H) x 30 (W) inches

55.88 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0012



Saul Alegria

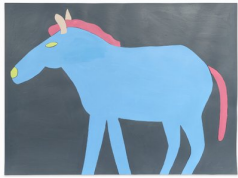
Woodcock, 2024

Acrylic on paper

22 (H) x 29.75 (W) inches

55.88 (H) x 75.56 (W) cm

S.Alegria0019



Saul Alegria

Horse, 2026

Acrylic on paper

22 (H) x 30 (W) inches

55.88 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0021



Saul Alegria

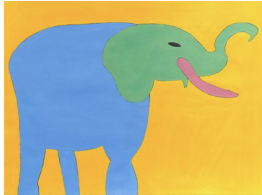
Untitled, 2019

Mixed media on paper

22 (H) x 30 (W) inches

55.88 (H) x 76.20 (W) cm

S.Alegria0022



Saul Alegria

African Elephant, 2025

Acrylic on paper

18 (H) x 24 (W) inches

45.72 (H) x 60.96 (W) cm

S.Alegria0004



Saul Alegria

Worker Ant, 2025

Acrylic on paper

18 (H) x 24 (W) inches

45.72 (H) x 60.96 (W) cm

S.Alegria0008



Saul Alegria

Kangaroo, 2024

Acrylic on paper

16 (H) x 20 (W) inches

40.64 (H) x 50.80 (W) cm

S.Alegria0009



Saul Alegria

Buffalo, 2024

Acrylic on paper

19.75 (H) x 28 (W) inches

50.16 (H) x 71.12 (W) cm

S.Alegria0015



Saul Alegria
Surgeonfish, 2024
Acrylic on paper
13 (H) x 20.25 (W) inches
33.02 (H) x 51.44 (W) cm
S.Alegria0020



Saul Alegria
Weevil, 2022
Acrylic on paper
9 (H) x 12 (W) inches
22.86 (H) x 30.48 (W) cm
S.Alegria0013



Saul Alegria
Green Lizard, 2018
Glazed ceramic
12 (H) x 6 (W) x 2 (D) inches
30.48 (H) x 15.24 (W) x 5.08 (D) cm
S.Alegria0017



Saul Alegria
Yellow Creature, 2025
Glazed ceramic
13 (H) x 7 (W) x 2 (D) inches
33.02 (H) x 17.78 (W) x 5.08 (D) cm
S.Alegria0018



Saul Alegria
Bunny, 2022
Glazed ceramic
7 (H) x 4 (W) x 4 (D) inches
17.78 (H) x 10.16 (W) x 10.16 (D) cm
S.Alegria0016