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Emilio Soltero

Artist, art historian, and teacher, Emilio Soltero says, "I like to hop around and not be confined." A north Natomas resident, Saltero grew up in Stockton, where he says his parents got him a library card at an early age, and he quickly found his way to the art section. That led to undergraduate and masters degrees in art from Sacramento State.

A second master's degree and Ph.D. in education from UC Davis followed.

Soltero studied with some of the university's great art teachers, including Manuel Neri and Wayne Thiebaud. He took Neri up on an invitation

to join him in his studio in Carrera, Italy, and tried his hand at sculpting marble. He's also tried etching.

Soltero's contagious enthusiasm for art takes him across a wide range of interests. His favorite medium is watercolor. He also works in oil and oil pastels. He has published several books, including *Draw*



the Line, and *Figure It Out: Ideas on figure drawing and sequential art*. His murals are on walls at UC Davis, and several schools throughout the region. Soltero uses cartooning to teach young students literacy. With sequential art, he says, instead of being told what to do, students are given

a framework for their own story. With excitement, he recalls one nine-year-old girl whose cartoon was about going to Mars. "It was a whole world she could make up and communicate," he says.

What's next? Soltero is working simultaneously on cartooning, and on anatomy studies and landscapes. He plans to travel more to complete and publish art history research he is conducting in Spain and Portugal. He would like to interest the Crocker in expanding the classes he has taught to include more practical studio programs for adults. He is increasingly interested in teaching "very vigorous" art history classes. He has been working in Photoshop for more than a decade, and is experimenting with 3-D computer programs.

(above)
Emilio Soltero's natomas backyard often doubles as a studio.

(right)
Lady in Field
8" x 10"
Figures in 5"x7" box
etching with watercolor highlights

(below)
Venice Evening
12' x 9"
oil on canvas



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