

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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If you did anything in 2007 that resembled original thought and was subject to aesthetic criticism, you can consider yourself an artist. Congratulations. For years, I was one of those people on the other side of the fence who had a hard time accepting this, particularly when discussing country western “artists” and those abstract expressionists who paint a canvas-colored canvas white. But I’ve long since broadened my realm of artistic acceptance and am proud to welcome a whole new crop of artists into my world of appreciation.

Clay Aiken, like it or not, is an artist. So is 50 Cent, the Mexican dude that makes those delicious tacos al pastor at Puerto Azul, the web designer of Chickenhead.com, the kid who spray-painted illegible gibberish on the underpass of the 101 near the Four Seasons, and so forth.

Tolstoy, a man who wrote extensively on art, history and religion, once observed that “the activity of art is based on the fact that a man, receiving through his sense of hearing or sight another man’s expression of feeling, is capable of experiencing the emotion which moved the man who expressed it.”

In other words, if I feel happy and I paint something reflecting that emotion, and someone sees it and feels a similar emotion (or any emotion, in my opinion), on this “the activity of art is based,” according to Tolstoy. Makes sense to me, and sort of explains why I want to drive into oncoming traffic when I accidentally hit a country western song while scanning radio stations, or why I feel the need to punch myself in the face for quoting Tolstoy just now.

Nonetheless, this issue of *The Wave Magazine* is a work of art. Not only does it include first-time contributor Gillian Telling’s magnificent 2007 Year in Review timeline – our annual nod to all things relevant and irrelevant this past year – but the final installment of Alison Bing’s three-part series on the rise of the Silicon Valley artistic movement. It’s the most provocative and thoughtful commentary that’s been written on the subject, I assure you.

“Silicon Valley has always had more than its fair share of smarties,” Alison told me when I asked her if she’d call what’s happening in our region an intellectual movement. “I’d describe what I’m seeing as a rise of offline creativity with an open-source attitude. There’s lots of surprisingly low-ego collaboration, and all the individual efforts add up to more than the sum of its parts. It needs community support and attention to really take off, but I can see it happening.”

And, we *must* maintain, this is just the beginning. It’s widely acknowledged that for a city to be accepted as, let’s face it, a “real” city, a thriving artistic community is paramount. Think of your favorite cities in the world, then consider how the arts are represented. You won’t find a cool city with deep cultural roots and an infectious metropolitan pride without a booming arts culture. In my opinion, an arts community may not lay the foundation of a city or region, but it does define the community on which a city or region is built.

Happy New Year, everyone. Here’s to the arts in 2008.

John Newlin  
Editor-in-Chief