

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**7811 GALLERY PRESENTS**



**CATY MAXEY**

7811  
gallery



**BENSON SIMMONDS**



**REIHANEH**

## **Colors and Light**

**Opening  
Sunday  
August 18**

**COLORS AND LIGHT: CATY MAXEY, REIHANEH, BENSON SIMMONDS**

**Opening Reception: Sunday, August 18 from 2 - 5pm  
At 7811 Gallery, 7811 Melrose Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90046**

(323) 272-4330 | 7811gallery.com | [info@7811gallery.com](mailto:info@7811gallery.com)

*A portion of the proceeds will be donated to  
[LA Food Bank](#) and [Teen Line Support Hotline](#).*

ABOUT THE EXHIBIT

The exhibit showcases three artists who use fused-glass, fabric, paint and mixed-media to express their inner-light and transform challenges and obstacles into inspirational art.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS



**Sunflowers**

27 x 21in., glass, wood

**Caty Maxey**

Acclaimed production designer, Caty Maxey, shares multi-colored, nature-inspired and abstract, fabric screens, fused-glass panels, and pictures lit from behind that she calls *lightboxes* in her gallery premier.

Inspired by memories, dreams and nature, Maxey creates images from fused-glass, melted in a kiln, and enhanced with light. Wonderfully complex, the work nonetheless evokes peace and harmony. Through an artful and imaginative use of materials, Maxey creates one-of-a-kind diaphanous fabric screens; covers a mirror with glass, fabric and ceramics; and offers smaller fused-glass panels and disks.

“Glass is a material that demands respect,” Maxey explains. “It is mysterious, basically composed of sand and soda. Somewhere between solid and liquid, it never completely stops moving, very, very slowly over the course of its lifetime, which can be thousands of years. It is simultaneously strong and fragile.”

Born and raised on a beloved family farm in Central Virginia, Maxey moved to New York, earned an MFA in Theatre and Film Design from NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts, and worked as production designer, art director and set designer on- and off-Broadway. She has been working in film and television for 36 years.

Creating art for family and friends as special gifts, and holding private sales events in her home has always been part of Maxey's artistic practice and brought much joy to others. She is thrilled to share her art publicly in this premier exhibition.

**Dancing on the Red Line**

24x30, acrylic on canvas, 2024



**Reihaneh** (Safavi)

Trained in architecture and involved in the Women's movement in Iran, Reihaneh Safavi moved to the US to pursue art. After traveling the world and honing her eye to the nuances of culture, nature and architecture, she began refining her style as a painter. Her work is already gaining a following and she becoming a recognized artist in Los Angeles.

In these pieces, Reihaneh explores overcoming childhood trauma by embracing positivity to find light within the darkness. Her work distills complex concepts into simple, impactful forms that emphasize joy and honest, thoughtful expression. Her paintings blend representation and abstraction, using bright and muted colors together to reflect a depth of emotion. The work grabs the viewer and draws us in, urging us to maintain our child-like wonder and to refrain from judgement. Painting in acrylics, Reihaneh builds up layers of paint to achieve a dynamic surface that reflects her spiritual, meditative state.

She has traveled throughout the world; her practice seeks to build community and to nurture the child in all of us. She champions girls and women and the need to make room and allow all feelings to exist and be honored in the present moment.

Reihaneh, who goes by her first name, has exhibited at Proximity Visuals, in a solo show in 2023, and recently participated in a group show at 515 Gallery in Downtown LA. She is quickly gaining a following and plans to pursue an MFA in the United States. Her work can already be found in many private collections.



### **Benson Simmonds**

Energy healer, actor, writer and artist, Benson Simmonds creates powerful, expressive paintings that emanate from his soul, or what he calls, *Soular Power*. He sees the soul as an infinite source of unconditional love and unlimited possibilities and his work challenges us to awaken the power of our own souls.

Using India ink, markers and other mixed-media and acrylic painting, on glass, tile and canvas, Simmonds presents work that reflects childlike wonder and inner joy. His abstract, modernist style evokes mid-century New York painters, such as Motherwell, Pollock and Kandinsky. In Canada, he drew the attention of prominent Vancouver art dealer, Sergio Patrich, who observed, "*Benson's intuitive use of color and composition is truly remarkable.*"

Simmonds launched his artistic career with numerous sold-out art shows in his native Canada, then moved to New York to pursue another passion, acting, for which he won awards, while continuing to paint and offer his art to collectors.

According to Nancy Larrew, gallery owner in Los Angeles where Simmonds exhibits, "every one of his exhibits is a feel-good show."

Benson Simmonds exhibits at bG Gallery, Matter Gallery and elsewhere. His work is sought after by collectors and can be found in numerous private collections in Canada, the U.S. and Europe.



EXHIBITION ON VIEW:

August 18 through September 29, 2024

Gallery hours: Sunday through Thursday, noon to 5pm, and by appointment.  
For more information, email [info@7811gallery.com](mailto:info@7811gallery.com)

ABOUT 7811 GALLERY:

7811 Gallery, located in a light-filled space on Melrose Avenue, represents local and emerging artists, who create uplifting and spiritual art. In the heart of the Melrose Arts District, the gallery creates community and connects art-lovers and collectors with artists. The gallery hosts events, such as poetry readings, live-music, sound baths, and art workshops as well.