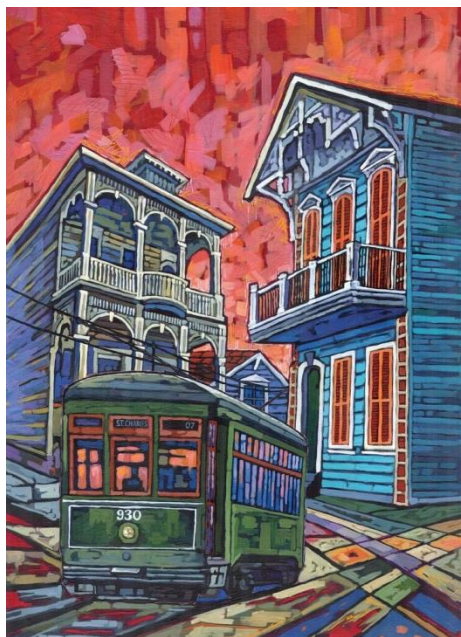


## Art on the Commons Artist Spotlight: Featured artist, Anastasia Mak



This week's Art on the Commons spotlight introduces Chicago, IL-based artist, Anastasia Mak, this year's featured artist! Anastasia was last year's AOTC first-place award winner and will be showing and selling her paintings, "which are influenced by destinations and develop from photographs and sketches that I capture while traveling or exploring," she said. "They combine unique background patterns with buildings and landscapes."

Here's what Anastasia had to say about her work and inspiration: "I'm a full-time artist, who can't quite sit still (and that is why, of course, I also always paint while standing). Travel ignited a fire in me a long time ago, and I do not plan on putting it out. Wanderlust fuels my artwork."

When I was a little kid, I began to draw and paint, so obsessively that my parents signed me up for a preparatory art school for children (which was tedious, by the way – things are always less fun when they're mandatory!). In college, however, I pursued a more 'practical' route and obtained a business degree – but art always consumed a larger space in my head. I worked in the corporate world of marketing for a few years before quitting in 2008 to paint full time – and haven't looked back since! I now create art in my studio in Chicago's Ravenswood neighborhood.

It is hard for me to last a season without taking a trip – I'm a bit obsessed with discovering new cities, experiencing different countries, and finding fresh hiking trails. My home, Chicago, is also a great muse. So, naturally, my paintings became **DESTINATIONS IN COLOR** – their subject matter comes from photos I take and sketches I do while out exploring. Figurative themes and even animals make their way into my work, too – they are also a reflection of things I see and do."



Come meet Anastasia and see her artwork in person at the 29<sup>th</sup> annual Art on the Commons: Sunday, August 13 from 11am – 5pm!