

Ana-Teresa Fernández

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An Artist's Guide to San Francisco with Ana
Teresa Fernández

By: Alicia Miller

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San Francisco resident artist Ana Teresa Fernández takes us on a tour of her favorite places in the city | © Ana Teresa Fernández

Follow this contemporary Mexican creative as she steers the way to her adopted city's best taco joints, dive bars and go-to galleries.

[San Francisco](#)'s links to the creative community run deep. After all, this free-spirited [California](#) city sparked the Sixties counterculture movement, transforming everything from art to music and fashion. Today, that rich creative heritage lives on in the likes of performance artist and Mexican-born painter, Ana Teresa Fernández, who now lives in the City by the Bay, where recent projects have included an installation on the city's Ocean Beach, illustrating issues around climate change. Here, she gives us her insider tips on San Fran's best surf spots, rockstar hotels and cool creative hangouts.

De Young Museum

Building, Museum, Park



“Hands down, my favorite museum in San Francisco is the de Young. It’s in the Golden Gate Park, a greenscape that feels like it’s from the dinosaur era: parts of the building are bordered by monumental ferns and trees. One of its highlights is a nine-story tower with a glass room providing a 360-degree view of the city; you can even go up for free. On the way, you’ll see incredible, metal woven suspended sculptures by artist Ruth Asawa. Head there on a weekday, and it won’t be too crowded.”

Hook Fish

Restaurant, Mexican, \$\$\$

“I am a surfer, and I live in the Outer Sunset neighborhood, right in front of Ocean Beach. Seafood restaurant Hook Fish is the best Coastal ‘Mexifornian’ place you can find. The poke burritos will blow your taste buds. The owners are surfers, neighbors and sea lovers who are truly eco-friendly and incredibly mindful individuals. They have two locations – the other’s in Mill Valley, just north of San Francisco – and both were crafted and created by some of the most talented designers and carpenters the city has.”

Catharine Clark Gallery

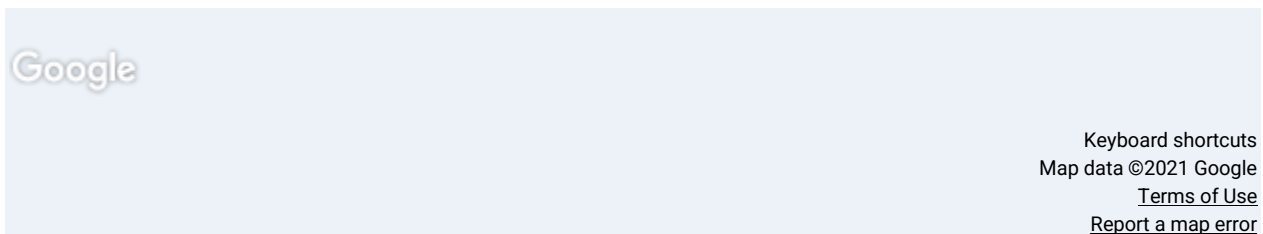
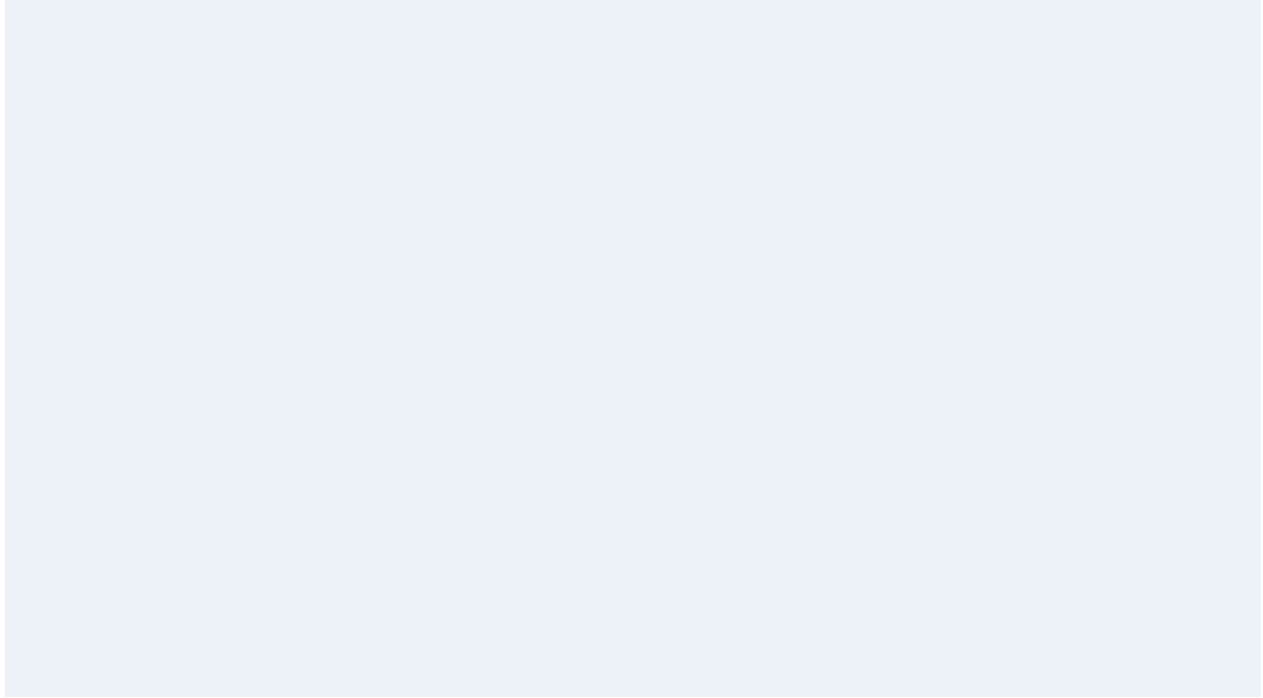
Art Gallery

“Catharine Clark Gallery represents some of the best contemporary art in the city, so there’s always a great exhibition worth visiting. My art is available to view here. But I also have some public pieces sprinkled throughout the city. *DREAM*, my version of the Hollywood sign, stretches 70ft (21m) across and 15ft (4.5m) high on the east side of Bernal Heights Hill: it glitters, water-like, from thousands of reflective disks suspended on its surface. Or visit my mural, spelling ‘WHY’ in bright neon orange – three stories high – Downtown, on 5th and Market.”



**CATHARINE
CLARK
GALLERY**

248 Utah Street
SF, CA 94103
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cclarkgallery.com



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De Young Museum

Building, Museum, Park

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More info

[Open In Google Maps](#)

[50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, California, 94118, USA](#)
[+14157503600](#)

[Visit Website](#)
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Hook Fish

Restaurant, Mexican, \$\$\$

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More info

Open In Google Maps

[4542 Irving Street, Outer Sunset, San Francisco, California, 94122, USA](#)

[+14155694984](#)

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Atmosphere:

Casual, Relaxed

Catharine Clark Gallery

Art Gallery

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Open In Google Maps

[248 Utah Street, Mission District, San Francisco, California, 94103, USA](#)

[+14153991439](#)

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The Homestead

Bar, American

“Looking for a cool place to drink in San Francisco? Go to the Homestead if you want to run into a varied mix of the local-maker crowd; designers, plumbers, carpenters and techies all come here. The floor is covered in peanut shells, the ceilings are silver, and the beautiful old bar has a quote by Dylan Thomas: ‘Rage against the dying of the light.’ They have a really good whiskey selection, too, if you like that.”

Sutro Baths

Building, Ruins, Swimming Pool



© Danita Delimont / Alamy Stock Photo

“Sutro Baths is one of my favorite outdoor locations. It used to be a natural Olympic training pool on the edge of Ocean Beach, nestled below the cliffs. Now it exists only as remains, stone traces that feel reminiscent of a shoreline acropolis. I love going on runs up to the entry of [the Presidio](#). These pools have beautiful reflections of the surroundings, while three massive rocks

– shooting up from the sea – buffer against crashing waves. Go up the cliff, and you’ll get a glimpse of the iconic Golden Gate Bridge in the distance.”

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Art Gallery, Museum, Theater, Theatre



© Richard Cummins / Alamy Stock Photo

“Try catch a performance at [Yerba Buena Center](#) by San Francisco-based Lines Ballet. Don’t be mistaken by the title ‘ballet’: it’s very contemporary. They only perform at certain times of year, and I have never missed them. Every time I go, I invite someone who has never seen them before to experience it. I once took a Hawaiian pro big-wave surfer to see them, and he was blown away. He’d never seen anything like it.”

Creativity Explored Art Gallery



© Felix Choo / Alamy Stock Photo

“Located in the LatinX quarters of the Mission district, people tend to walk past this art space because from the outside it’s quite nondescript. However, go through the door and it’s like the closet which leads to Narnia. There are giant sculptures suspended across the high wooden beams, and drawings and paintings covering every surface. Creativity Explored is an art space for artists with developmental disabilities, and they are some of the most talented, avant-garde creatives I have seen. Their work is not bound by ego or awareness, but has a rawness and boldness you wish every artist could tap into.”

Phoenix Hotel

Boutique Hotel



Courtesy of Phoenix Hotel / Booking.com

“As for hotels? Try [the Phoenix](#) to feel like a rockstar. The bar is super hip, trendy and has a VIP rock ‘n’ roll vibe. You feel Mick Jagger might walk in at any moment. Funnily enough, I did bump into Neil Young at an art event by the outdoor pool there several years back. That indoor/outdoor swim club is one of SF’s best kept secrets, and great for a daytime cocktail.”

San Francisco Proper

Boutique Hotel, Hotel



Courtesy of San Francisco Proper / Booking.com

“The [San Francisco Proper](#) hotel is unique in the sense that it doesn’t rely too heavily on nostalgia, but instead it is quite bold and intersects eras and styles like Brutalism and Art Deco, all while making it comfortable. The Proper is nothing like its name, you go there to have groundbreaking conversations and get inspired. Which suits me: at the end of the day, I want a comfortable place to sink into a good conversation while being inspired by my surroundings to change the world.”

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