

TOP TO BOTTOM: The artist in her studio; signature tiles; finalizing the design.



Sealed with a Kiss

There's no shortage of decorative tiles in Santa Barbara. You see them on everything from buildings to benches, an intrinsic element of this town's signature appearance. Now, Ojai artist Cassandra C. Jones has added her playful trompe l'oeil touch to the ceramic cityscape with LOVE LETTERS. The 600-tile double mural at Paseo Nuevo's lower north court entrance was commissioned by Paseo Nuevo in partnership with the Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara.

Be sure to take a close-up look. The abstract patterns—which at first glance appear to be waves, curlicues, and starbursts—are carefully collaged photographic images of guitars, Spanish fans, and surfboards, among other things, that pay affectionate homage to Santa Barbara's architecture, culture, and heritage. J.T.

