

# RAW AWARDS

*RAWards Semi-Finals Showcase*  
By Jessica Dearborn



Jeanette Crutchfield  
Makeup Winner

RAWards is an opportunity for independent artists to showcase their unique talents and original works. The evening of November 17th at the downtown venue, 4th & B, was an energetic buzz as the artists selected for the RAWards Semi-Finals Showcase, hosted by Sara Wilwerding, awaited to hear if they would be moving on to the final round. Selected were some of San Diego's and other cities top indie artists in various categories. During the showcase, the semi-finalists were voted on by their peers and community members. The winners will then be moving on to the national finals at the Graumans Chinese Theater in Hollywood, California.

The RAWards takes place annually, February through October, and is hosted in 21 different cities nationwide. Independent artists compete within their cities with hopes of making it to the semi-final round in November.



Maegan Cooper- Hair Winner

Then it is on to the finals where there are exclusive and potentially life-changing prizes such as meeting with industry professionals. RAW takes applications year round so if you are an independent artist looking to get some exposure, go to <http://www.rawartists.org/submit-your-work> to submit your work.

The winners selected that evening in San Diego, along with comments some of them shared about their experience were: Jeanette Crutchfield for Makeup, "It has been an absolute pleasure working with the RAW organization and the highest privilege to be representing San Diego in the RAW National Finals. To get this far has been a fun-filled and amazing journey where I've not only grown so very much, I've also met some of the most talented artists and formed lasting friendships and creative bonds."

**Maegan Cooper** for Hair, "Hair is an expression of yourself. Make it fabulous!"; **Elyse Marino** for Fashion, "I feel so honored to be Raw's San Diego Fashion Designer of the Year! I'd like to say thanks to Raw for putting the gas on my exposure and giving me the opportunity to showcase my work in Hollywood!"

**Erin Fader** for Accessories, "Jewelry is an incredibly powerful object that can connect and enrich people's lives through family, history, places, and memories. It has the ability to transcend gender, race, and age yet also be completely personal and unique to each individual. I am grateful for Raw for giving me the opportunity to reach a much wider audience than I ever could do alone. This experience has been amazing, inspiring, and so much fun!"

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Rawards Showcase at 4th & B

**Sound Drug** for Music, "We would like to thank the RAW Artists for such a great experience, and all the people that voted for us to make this happen. I feel really grateful that people chose us not by the number of "Likes" on Facebook (sadly that's one of the biggest thing matters to bands these days) but simply by our music."

**Gregg Visintainer** for Art, "RAW Artists is an amazing organization that is only getting bigger and bigger! Currently RAW is in over 20 cities and it is a great way to bring artists from all over together. I love you San Diego and I hope to bring the RAWards Visual Artist of the Year home!"

**Sean Diaz** for Photography, "I'm honored to have been chosen and thrilled to represent San Diego as RAW Artists Photographer of The Year.

When I bought my first DSLR camera last February I had no idea that I'd be on stage getting recognized for my art in less than a year.

What started as a hobby has turned into a full time passion that I plan to build upon from the momentum of this win. I'd like to thank RAW Natural Born Artists and RAW San Diego for the work they do in supporting the arts. Congratulations to all the other artists and I'm looking forward to the national finals in Los Angeles next month."

**Nate Woolridge** for Film, "Everything happens for a reason, it is what it is, it's better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it. lol. I'm not sure what to say. I guess I could say how stoked I am to be in San Diego, California doing what I love to do. This has been a dream come true for me. Thank you Raw Natural born Artists." **Ooh La La Dance Company** for Peforming Arts completed the list of winners. To find out more about the RAWards and the artists, please visit: <http://www.rawartists.org/>