

FREE Santa Barbara JUNE 24-JULY 1, 2021
VOL. 35 • NO. 806

Independent

Still
WORKING IT
Mostly from Home



**OUR
ANNUAL
REPORT ON
THE JOBS
MARKET**



NEWS: PARTY OVER FOR PARKLET-PALOOZA? ◆ **SPORTS:** THE CARPINTERIA COMET
ARTS: WAGNER AT THE LOBERO ◆ **IN MEMORIAM:** MARTA GALLO



FOREVER COLLECTING: Tracey Strobel is a self-described research geek with a degree in ancient history.

sbmidmod

Brings Mid-Century Style to Santa Barbara

An appealing array of home furnishings and artful objects—featuring the mid-century modern motifs of clean lines, bright colors, organic and geometric shapes, bold patterns, mixed textures, and contrasting materials—are on display at sbmidmod, a new addition to the Funk Zone. Located on Anacapa Street next to the popular Mony’s Mexican restaurant, this eclectic retail space showcases the timeless appeal of the design style.

A self-described research geek with a degree in ancient history, owner Tracey Strobel has spent almost two decades collecting, studying, restoring, and selling mid-century pieces. She got started hunting down furnishings for her own home. “Then it became a situation where I had one or two too many pieces and I thought I could maybe sell them ... and it snowballed into a business rather rapidly after that ... and 18 years later, ta-da,” she laughed.

Strobel began selling in the early days of eBay. “I’ve done the grunt work,” she said. “I worked estate sales, I’ve had spaces in antique malls—including a current space at the Antique Center Mall—and I’ve been incredibly grateful for those experiences because you learn a lot from the people around you. One of the things I love the most about this job is that you’re constantly learning.”

She finds her inventory everywhere, from online searches to estate sales to tips from her network of antique dealers. As to what excites her about the mid-century modern aesthetic, Strobel said, “I love the minimal lines. I love the simplicity, and honestly, I view all of these pieces as functional art. It’s a lamp, yes, it gives you light, but it’s beautiful to look at and it

inspires an emotional reaction for me. I can’t explain it better than that.”

The research geek that she is, Strobel added, “There is also the component of knowing who the designers are and having the opportunity to research and learn about someone new.”

The other appeal of the era is the craftsmanship. “It’s so well-made,” she said. “When you take care of these pieces, they will last for generations. It’s also important to me—though it’s pretty simple and rather obvious—that antiquing and buying vintage/used furniture helps the planet.”

As to the risk of opening up a new retail space during the uncertain days of a pandemic, Strobel said it was really a matter of stumbling onto a building that spoke to her. She was out on a bike ride in February when she spotted the “For Lease” sign in the window of a gutted building. “All I could see was the brick and

the studs,” she said. She quickly made an appointment for a walk through. “It just landed with me,” she said.

Strobel signed a lease two weeks later.

The timing was good. “I was really ready to have a place where people could come in and shop, but also where I could research and do my work,” she said. “This is essentially my office that people can come and shop in.”

“It’s definitely an obsession,” she laughed. “You’ve got to have a passion for this in order to make it last a long time. It’s a lot of fun, but it’s also a lot of work.”

New Shop Opens in Funk Zone

by Leslie Dinaberg



ERICK MADRID PHOTOS

SUPER CUCAS



VOTED SANTA BARBARA'S BEST BURRITO 27 YEARS IN A ROW!

BREAKFAST EVERY DAY!
BURRITO \$6.39
Micheltorena & Mesa Locations



High School Students Receive Free Soda w/ Lunch!
(Mon-Fri Only - Micheltorena & Mesa Locations)

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS \$7.99



2030 Cliff Dr, Mesa
Daily 7am-10pm
966-3863

626 W. Micheltorena, SB
Daily 6am-10pm
962-4028

6527 Madrid Rd, IV
Daily 7am-11pm
770-3806

Introducing the MICKEY FLACKS JOURNALISM FUND FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

A fund that directly supports the Santa Barbara Independent’s coverage of social justice and environmental issues.

In 2020, the Mickey Flacks Fund supported the in-depth coverage of the Lompoc Prison COVID Outbreak, the Force Files, a look into police use-of-force incidents, and many other issues.

To make a contribution visit sbcan.org/journalism_fund

To read articles supported by the Flacks Fund go to independent.com/mickeyflacks

