In a California Light:
Paintings Tell the Story of the Golden State at the Hilbert Museum

by Mary Platt, Director, Hilbert Museum of California Art

The world’s art hierarchy tends to look at New York City and Paris (and, to a lesser extent, other major European cities) as the global “art capitals.” But here’s an interesting point to ponder: did you know that Los Angeles in the 20th century boasted more working artists per square mile than any other city? And that many of those artists were men and women at the very top of their game, producing works that still could very easily be hailed as masterpieces in any museum, anywhere?

And yet, because of the world’s (now highly outdated) notion of California as a far-flung art outpost, many of these artists were largely overlooked until recent years.

The reason Los Angeles lured so many artists, painters and graphic artists alike, was the movie industry: rising up from the dusty streets of L.A., its newfangled lenses open to the constant California sunshine. There were real paying jobs to be had: painting backdrops, designing scenery and posters and other advertising art, and working in the fledgling animation studios of another visionary artist drawn inexorably to L.A.: Walt Disney.

And in their spare time — when not inking animation art or creating posters — these working movie artists would take their palettes and easels and set up in the countryside, by the harbors, or on city streets, and paint the everyday life around them. Thus, they created an artistic movement that would come to be known as California Scene painting — a style that flourished from roughly the 1930s through the 1970s, although some notable exponents of the style carried it on into the ‘80s and beyond.

The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University celebrates the California Scene movement, showcasing such masters as Millard Sheets, Emil Kosa Jr., Mary Blair, Phil Paradise, Milford Zornes, Phil Dike, Dong Kingman, Alfredo Ramos Martinez and many more. The museum, which opened in 2016 thanks to the generosity of collectors and donors Mark and Janet Hilbert of Newport Coast, is a significant repository of 20th-century representational art by California artists. It also encompasses the animation and movie art created by California Scene painters in their workaday mode, as well as works by noted American illustrators (another interest of the Hilberts).

“We’re delighted that Chapman University is the home of these works we have devoted ourselves to collecting, and that they will be shared with the students, faculty, visiting researchers and the wider public,” said donor Mark Hilbert. “We feel that the university’s mission, and its unique location in historic Old Towne Orange, already a magnet for those interested in the rich California history of the area, makes it the perfect location for a museum showcasing these works, inspiring people with their beauty and encouraging intellectual inquiry.”

Mark Hilbert says that the focus of his collecting is on paintings that tell stories — stories of the lives of Californians as the state changed and grew, from its early agricultural days through the rise of the cities and the freeways, and on until today’s leisure and tourism economy. The art collection colorfully depicts the Golden State’s social history, from a time of farm workers and factory laborers through two world wars and the Great Depression, from the boom of the postwar years to the surfing culture of the 1960s and the tourism industry today.

California Scene painting was the regional offshoot of a larger movement in American art that gained momentum after World War I. As the nation became, to a certain extent, isolationist, a faction of the American art world retreated from what they saw as the decadence of European modernism. They felt that a uniquely American style – rooted in representational art (that is, art with recognizable subject matter) and focusing on scenes that showed the nation’s everyday life and foundational strength – could be created and would stand on its own. This style – called American Scene or American Regionalism – flourished in the works of Thomas Hart Benton and Grant Wood, to name perhaps the top proponents.

But where Benton and Wood focused on the landscapes and people of the great American Midwest, showing rolling, solid farmland under the plow, and stalwart rural individuals almost daring viewers to take them on (think Grant’s “American Gothic”), California Scene painters had a distinct and unique take on the style. Because many were based in and around L.A. due to the movie industry, they had a more urban viewpoint. Also, the influence of Mexico and Mexican art permeated California art – especially the works of the great Mexican muralists with their solid forms and well-delineated contours. And, always, there is that omnipresent California light, permeating all.

Visitors to the Hilbert Museum will enjoy favorite paintings from the Hilbert permanent collection as well as rotating exhibitions; more than 200 works in all. Currently on view, through September 23: “Golden Dreams: The Immigrant Vision of California,” a selection of works by artists who moved to California from points around the world; “Out of the West,” works by California artists who sent their paintings to be exhibited out East and overseas; and “Disney Production Art,” a showcase of animation cells and concept art created by top California artists who worked for the Disney Studios, including Mary Blair and Eyvind Earle.

The Hilbert Museum of California Art is located at 167 N. Atchison Street in Orange, directly across from the Orange train station. Museum hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. Parking is free in front of the Museum with a permit obtained at the front desk. For more information: 714.516.5880 or visit www.hilbertmuseum.com.

Patrons enjoy an exhibition at the Hilbert Museum of California Art in Orange.
HILBERT MUSEUM
OF CALIFORNIA ART
AT CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

THREE NEW EXHIBITIONS
March 18 – September 23

Golden Dreams: The Immigrant Vision of California
See California through the eyes of those who moved here from around the world, painting their own visions of the Golden State. Includes works by Alfredo Ramos Martinez, Sueng Yangchareon, William Wendt, Emil Kosa Jr., Sueo Serisawa, more.

Out of the West
Paintings by 20 prominent California artists whose works were exhibited in well-established art museums and galleries throughout the U.S. and in Europe from the 1930s through the 1960s. Includes works by Millard Sheets, Phil Paradise, Milford Zornes, more.

Disney Production Art
Many distinguished California Scene painters worked for the Walt Disney Studios from the 1930s on. This exhibition features rare original animation cels and related production work from Disney movie masterpieces.

Hilbert Museum of California Art
167 N. Atchison St., Orange, CA 92866
714-516-5880
www.hilbertmuseum.com
www.facebook.com/hilbertmuseum

Museum Hours:
Tuesday–Saturday, 11am–5pm
Admission is always free.

Museum Parking:
Free in any Visitor spot in front of the Museum with permit obtained at Museum front desk.
EXPRESS YOUR
CREATIVE STYLE
by Lugano Diamonds

Lugano Diamonds was founded with the vision of creating exquisite one-of-a-kind jewelry selections that are true works of art from the world’s most rare and precious gems. We believe jewelry is a creative expression of who you are, and our designs match lifestyles from casual to elegant with pieces you won’t find anywhere else or on anyone else.

Unlike most jewelers, Lugano designs to the gemstone itself. “When you work with the world’s most sought after jewels, it’s important to design to the actual stone to bring out its best features and nuances,” said Mori Ferder, Lugano CEO and Design Director. “Our jewelry pieces are one-of-a-kind, wearable works of art,” he added.

Say It With Opals
Lugano selects only the highest quality stones, and these beautiful opals are no exception. While opals vary widely in appearance and quality, Lugano’s stringent criteria for the procurement of opals includes superiority in three key areas: color, pattern and clarity. This Opal Titanium Band showcases 4.86 carats of opals that possess amazing background and play of color. Set in lightweight titanium with 2.38 carats of round diamonds, this ring stands out in the crowd.

Show Your Animal Magnetism
No longer a trend, animal prints are here to stay, and Lugano’s Leopard Hoops are ferociously fun! These earrings, with 13.84 carats of round cognac diamonds and 6.54 carats of round black diamonds, will make the outfit. Ideal for pairing with solid colored tops, you can dress them up or opt for casual everyday attire. They are sure to add that dash of excitement.

Orange County’s Art Scene
From performing arts to museums to galleries galore, the thriving Orange County art scene only continues to grow. Supporting the arts comes hand-in-hand with receiving invitations to the most sought after parties. One must play the part and dress the part. Wear this scene stealer — a 2.93 carat rose cut diamond pendant, enhanced with 3.09 carats of rose cut diamonds and 2.63 carats of fancy yellow diamonds. The difference is in the details — isn’t this chain the ultimate pièce de résistance? You will surely be the star of the show wearing this.

We welcome you to view Lugano Diamonds’ stunning collection at the Grand Salon located at 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 100, in Newport Beach or at Lugano’s Montage Laguna Beach Jewelry Salon, conveniently located within the resort at 30801 S Coast Hwy in Laguna Beach. For more information and pricing, please call 866.584.2666 or email info@luganodiamonds.com.
What an exciting privilege it is to be at the helm of UCI’s “creative laboratory,” the Claire Trevor School of the Arts! As Dean of the School, it’s my great pleasure to foster, nurture, and present the most accomplished, challenging, and satisfying arts experiences.

I want to encourage you to come join us for a play, a dance, music, or art presentation, knowing that if you do you’ll come back again and again. In the Trevor School, we probe the entire spectrum of human experience, from tragedy to comedy, from dark to light, from great traditions to art-making at the very edge of tomorrow. Our faculty and students come from around the globe to apply their talents to honing the exploratory skills they need to bring viewers and listeners on a unique journey. As a core part of what is now the ninth-ranked public university in America, UCI, the Trevor School aims its programs in art, dance, drama, and music at the kind of invention—and excellence in execution—to be found nowhere else in the region. Our students come to UCI, and to CTSA, to experience new vistas of creativity, and to learn to become citizen-artists, sharpening their skills in order to become active questioners, the molders and shapers of the creative enterprise, the leaders of tomorrow’s world culture.

I call the Trevor School UCI’s “creative laboratory” because, just as UCI’s engineers, biologists, and physicists work in and through research laboratories in order to define and develop their research process, so do we as artists. But it’s our studios, rehearsal rooms, practice rooms, galleries, and performance spaces that are our research laboratories. Rather than to map genomes or study the retina, however, our research focuses on explorations of human perception, human experience, and human behavior. We have the privilege of engaging in this research in the most fundamental ways, through the display of visual and aural images that echo through the entire human cultural past, from the designs on Australian rock formations and images on cave walls, to rituals of cultural inclusion and aspiration that developed into the disciplines we now call art, dance, drama, and music. We as artists are the inheritors of this astonishing history, and we are its current researchers, producing new generations of artists and artifacts. We see our role in this age-old human panorama as the constant revitalizing of culture itself, reminding the world of who and what we are as creative human beings.

And we’re in the midst of some remarkable new developments:

➤ new faculty members in all four of our departments, such as Dance’s internationally-recognized choreographer Lar Lubovitch, are taking art production to the next level
➤ a new partnership with the Irvine Barclay Theatre is already resulting in a series of CTSA/IBT collaborations designed to take the arts to the surrounding community
➤ our Beall Center for Art + Technology, in addition to its well-known global arts presentations, is at work on regional STEAM connections and robotics, attracting new, young participants to the Trevor School.

And there’s much, much more. The Arts Village is the Orange County destination for anyone interested in experiencing the very best in the arts, as our many awards and accolades clearly show. Around the Maya Lin Plaza, the Trevor School’s central focus, you’ll find the Claire Trevor Theatre, the Music and Drama research and office buildings, Winifred Smith Concert Hall, The Beall Center for Art + Technology, the University Art Gallery, and the Green Room Café, where you can sit in comfort before and after performances and presentations. Our newest facility, the Contemporary Arts Center, home of our motion-capture studio, the xMPL experimental performance space, the mechatronics laboratory and much more, is only a few yards away.

When I say that it’s an exciting privilege to be part of these dynamic explorations, I’m speaking for all who come to the Trevor School for an event, then come back for more, knowing that each visit will be another adventure into the world of the imagination that only the arts can provide. I continue to look forward to each of those experiences, and never tire of the excitement I feel when I’ve been transported to a new place by something I’ve seen or heard in the School.

And I know the same thing will happen to you here, too. We would love to count you among our friends and supporters. Everything you need to connect with us is on our website, www.arts.uci.edu. Come to an event and see what I mean—and if your reaction to a Trevor School event is the same as mine, be sure to let me know.

Stephen Barker, Ph.D.  Dean
UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts
4000 Mesa Road, Irvine, CA
Box office: 949.824.2787, www.arts.uci.edu

UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Would you like to get involved?
UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts relies on the generosity of donors and creates funding initiatives through the support of the Trevor School’s Dean’s Arts Council. Top fundraising efforts in 2017 revolve around the Dean’s Next–Level Initiatives central to building on the School’s strengths and moving the institution forward as a leader in arts and technology. These initiatives provide laser focus on maintaining the excellence of CTSA’s traditional arts and its development of new technologies, through which the Trevor School will continue to contribute to UCI’s ascent. We are pleased to announce we have met the goal for Music’s Steinway Initiative. A committee comprised of members from the Dean’s Arts Council and major arts advocates raised funds to purchase a new Steinway D Grand piano which will make its debut on stage at the May 6th UCI Music Showcase Concert at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. A fund has been set up in honor of Jean H. Aldrich to secure the maintenance and care of musical instruments. To contribute to The Jean H. Aldrich Fund for Music or to be a part of any of this growing arts advocacy, contact our Director of Development, at 949.824.8750.
The Trevor School celebrates “Arts Renaissance” during the month of May with a surge of performances and exhibitions across all four departments including Art, Dance, Drama, and Music. The celebration features a series of art performances and shows ranging from professional and student art exhibitions in all four campus art galleries to several dance, drama, and music performances. CTSA presents the first ever UCI Music Showcase Concert, the three-act opera Our Town, based on the Thornton Wilder play, a four-day improv festival, Hossein Omoumi and Friends in concert, and much more. Please join us for a celebration of the Arts!

Events

April 29 – May 7, 2017
I Dream of Chang and Eng
Robert Cohen Theatre

April 29 – May 13, 2017
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part I
Contemporary Arts Center Gallery
University Art Gallery, Room Gallery

May 1 – May 13, 2017
Masculine ↔ Feminine
Beall Center for Art + Technology

May 4 – May 6, 2017
Physical Graffiti
Claire Trevor Theatre

May 6, 2017
UCI Music Showcase Concert
Irving Burbank Theatre

May 10-13, 2017
Coup de Comedy Festival 2017
UCI CTSA

May 12-13, 2017
‘Our Town’ A Three-Act Opera
Irving Burbank Theatre

May 19, 2017
Lukas Ligeti: Between Many Worlds
Wright Smith Hall

May 20, 2017
Hossein Omoumi and Friends
Irving Burbank Theatre

May 20, 2017
MFA Thesis Exhibition, Part II
Contemporary Arts Center Gallery,
University Art Gallery, Room Gallery

May 22, 2017
Spring UCI Wind Ensemble Concert
Wright Smith Hall

May 24, 2017
Jazz Concert: The UCI Small Groups
Wright Smith Hall

May 25, 2017
ICIT Showcase Concert
Wright Smith Hall

May 31, 2017
UCI Jazz Orchestra Spring Concert
Wright Smith Hall

UCI Claire Trevor
School of the Arts

To purchase tickets
Arts Box Office (949) 824-2787
Online: www.arts.uci.edu/tickets

Ways to save!
“Arts Renaissance” packages available for 25% off when you buy three or more shows.
Nearly four decades ago, Michael Levy fell in love with the world of art and decided to focus his career on furnishing his future clients with exceptional art and value. Since then, Michael Levy Gallery has been instrumental in establishing prestigious collections throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties. The gallery concentrates on the work of blue-chip artists, with established value histories, across a wide price range. A visit to the gallery finds work by 20th Century Masters, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso and Joan Miró; Mixografía works by Rufino Tamayo and colorful graphics by Alexander Calder; alongside works by other highly-collected, but not as well-known artists like James Coignard and Max Papart. Additionally, the gallery often features California plein air watercolors and oil paintings, and selected sculpture and glass art.

Levy attributes his gallery’s success to several key factors. Early on, he connected with banks, probate attorneys and insurance companies needing expertise with values and liquidation of art. As a gallerist and an experienced art appraiser, Levy was well-positioned to provide the necessary link between these firms and his interested collectors looking for top-flight artwork and great value. Today, as much as half of the gallery’s business results from art acquired through estate and insurance liquidations.

Just as important, the gallery offers an art exchange policy that takes the fear factor out of collecting for buyers at all levels. Anything purchased at Michael Levy Gallery comes with full purchase price exchange privileges toward future purchases. The policy is fueled by confidence in the art – and has directly resulted in first-time art purchases by many, now loyal, collectors.

Michael Levy Gallery offers a full range of other art services including: fine art valuation and appraisal, custom framing and professional installation. The gallery will consider selected works for sale on consignment. Michael Levy Gallery is located at 6226 East Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach, 90803. The gallery can be contacted at 562.856.9800 or by email at artofhands@aol.com.
MOTAL is a museum on the move with traveling exhibitions in demand throughout the west – Los Angeles, Long Beach, Portland, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Ana, Riverside, Fullerton and more! MOTAL exhibitions tell well-researched, fascinating stories that serve as springboards to public conversations and classroom activities.

A key school integration court case happened right here in Orange County in the 1940s, but few knew. MOTAL has been helping to change all that. A Class Action won a prominent national award for its expert telling of the amazing story of Mendez et al. v. Westminster et al. and the Mexican school desegregation that followed.

Chinese students learn math – and other subjects – through repetition and memorization. Two Roads, One Journey reveals what education is really like for elementary students in China and the U.S. through the “day in the life” stories of Ping in China and Sam in the U.S.

What next? Research has begun on yet another hot topic, the brain and learning. It will be the seventh of MOTAL’s creations. And, along with like-minded partners, we are pursuing a national museum ABOUT education in Washington, DC. How fortunate that individuals and corporate donors see the importance of our work and have offered generous support for more than a decade. So far.

At MOTAL, we educate people about education through interactive traveling exhibitions and related events. We nourish minds with food for thought. Learn more at www.motal.org.

The Museum of Teaching and Learning
Helping thousands understand key education concepts

MOTAL Headquarters and Mini-Museum
1111 E. Commonwealth, Unit C
Fullerton, CA 92831
Arrange to visit by appointment: motalnormaames@gmail.com
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 3820
Fullerton, CA 92834

Celebrate
MOTAL’s Tenth Anniversary
at a great benefit gala at the Bowers Museum

School Days: Come as You Were (costumes optional)
Honoring the Arts in Education
Tables at early bird rates! $700 - table for eight, $100 - per person
Full-price tables and individual tickets go on sale in June.

For more information email Norma Ames
motalnormaames@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
AT 6:00 PM
www.motal.org

S A V E T H E D A T E C O M E A S Y O U W E R E MOTAL TENTH ANNIVERSARY GALA

food by Patina
dancing improv

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