

For Immediate Release  
April 29, 2021

## UCI IMCA Announces *Radiant Impressions*

### Exhibition of California Impressionism and Related Programs Featured as IMCA's Interim Museum Location Reopens to the Public

May 15–August 14, 2021

*Media Preview May 14, 2021, 9 am–11 am PDT. Advance registration required \**

Irvine, CA...The [Institute and Museum of California Art \(IMCA\)](#) at the University of California, Irvine today announced its upcoming exhibition that is expected to be available to in-person visitors in accordance with university and California safety protocols. On view May 15 through August 14, 2021 at IMCA's interim museum location at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, *Radiant Impressions* features 32 works from IMCA's collection of California Impressionism and loans from private collections.

Focusing on early to mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century painters, *Radiant Impressions* considers the ways artists have engaged with light not only for its optical qualities, but also for its power to convey meaning, ambiance, and emotion. The selection of oil paintings and watercolors also provides reflections of the times and places in which they were created. Depictions include pristine landscapes, harbor views, picturesque villages, urban skylines, domestic scenes and interiors, portraits, and people at work and play. Whether the golden tones produced by the California sun or the glow of an electric light bulb, the artists employ light to express a range of narratives and moments.



Guy Rose, *Laguna Eucalyptus*,  
circa 1917

The exhibition is organized in four thematic groupings:

- *The Domestic Realm and Work* juxtaposes intimate household activities with crisply lit landscapes.
- *Capturing the Scene* evokes the sensation of light at different times in the day.
- *Play and the Social Sphere* reveals how light is used to suggest energy, atmosphere, and movement in the public realm.
- *Lighting the Portrait* comprises pictures of women whose gazes invite a rapport with viewers.

Well-known California Impressionist paintings are in dialogue with less familiar pieces by women artists, including rarely exhibited paintings by Elsie Palmer Payne (1884–1971) and Burr Singer (1912–1992). Together, the works demonstrate how these painters rendered light to imbue the rich and varied meanings of everyday experiences with both nuance and drama, stasis and motion, familiarity and remoteness.

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Mailing Address: Institute and Museum of California Art, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA 92697-1000

Interim Museum Location: 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100, Irvine, CA 92612

Campus Office: Institute and Museum of California Art, UC Irvine, 5141 California, Irvine, CA 92617



Emil J. Kosa Jr., *Freeway Beginning*, circa 1948

Highlights include Guy Rose's (1867–1925) *Laguna Eucalyptus* (1917), revealing the influence of French Impressionism through a Californian lens. *Freeway Beginning* (c. 1948), a watercolor by Emil J. Kosa Jr. (1903–1968), emphasizes the contrasts between old and new architecture in post-war Los Angeles. Louis Betts's (1873–1961) *Mid-Winter, Coronado Beach* (1907) presents the Southern California sun as its own character in this romanticized scene of beachgoers enjoying seaside activities. The title intentionally reinforces the region's alluring climate even in winter.

The exhibition is curated by Jean Stern, former Senior Curator of California Impressionism at IMCA. A leading authority on the genre, he is also Executive Director Emeritus of The Irvine Museum (its collection is now part of IMCA) which he led for 28 years. Stern retired from IMCA last spring to focus on writing, lecturing, curating, and consulting. A [recorded Zoom conversation about \*Radiant Impressions\*](#) between Stern and IMCA Curatorial and Research Associate Erin Stout showcasing some of the works is available on the museum's website.

Kim Kanatani, Museum Director of IMCA, said, "We are delighted to welcome visitors back to our space in Irvine. While we will continue to offer virtual programming, there is nothing quite like seeing these beautiful artworks in person. The artists represented in this exhibition used color, light, and shadow to stunning effect. We are grateful to Jean Stern for sharing his deep knowledge of California Impressionism and some of his favorite paintings."

*Please note: IMCA's interim museum is currently closed in accordance with California state health protocols. Should health protocols still limit in-person visits during the planned presentation of *Radiant Impressions*, updates will be posted on IMCA's website. For further information and COVID-19 safety protocols, visit IMCA's website at [imca.uci.edu](http://imca.uci.edu).*

**\* Capacity at the media preview is limited and advance registration is required at [info@bow-bridge.com](mailto:info@bow-bridge.com). [COVID-19 safety guidelines](#) must be followed. Media contacts are below.**



Louis Betts, *Mid-Winter, Coronado Beach*, circa 1907

### Education Programs

In addition to serving the university and regional communities, IMCA aims to be a resource to educators and students by offering school visits, programs, digital tools, and activities designed for grades K–12. A goal is to contribute to the development of stronger critical-thinking skills, empathy, and curiosity about art and culture. School visits (currently virtual) offer opportunities for students to develop observation and interpretation skills using visual and sensory information, build knowledge independently and with one another, and cultivate an interest in artistic production.

With this exhibition, IMCA introduced a new publication series designed for teachers of grades 3-12. An illustrated Teacher Resource Guide based on three works in *Radiant Impressions* is available free-of-charge in print and, as of May 15, online. Each guide includes historical and

contextual essays about the selected artworks, artist biographies, discussion questions, activities for teaching with art, and a vocabulary list.

For questions about obtaining this or future Teacher Resource Guides or scheduling a virtual school visit, please contact the Education Department by email or phone at [imca@uci.edu](mailto:imca@uci.edu) or 949-476-0294 or register online at [Programs/K-12 Education](#). IMCA has also launched Making Together, at-home artmaking projects. These are available through the [museum's e-newsletter Monthly Muse](#) and on the website.

### **About the UCI Institute and Museum of California Art**

UCI's Institute and Museum of California Art (IMCA) is home to two foundational collections of California art—The Irvine Museum Collection, comprising more than 1,300 California Impressionist and *plein air* paintings, and The Buck Collection, including 3,000-plus works of California modern and post-war contemporary art. The university is planning to construct a permanent museum and research institute to serve as a global magnet for the exhibition and study of California art within its social, historical, environmental, and cultural frameworks.

**About the University of California, Irvine:** Founded in 1965, UCI is the youngest member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. The campus has produced three Nobel laureates and is known for its academic achievement, premier research, innovation, and anteater mascot. Led by Chancellor Howard Gillman, UCI has more than 36,000 students and offers 222 degree programs. It is located in one of the world's safest and most economically vibrant communities and is Orange County's second-largest employer, contributing \$5 billion annually to the local economy. For more on UCI, visit [www.uci.edu](http://www.uci.edu).

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### **Media Contacts**

For additional information, Libby Mark or Heather Meltzer at Bow Bridge Communications, LLC, New York City, +1 347-460-5566; [info@bow-bridge.com](mailto:info@bow-bridge.com).

#### **Image Captions:**

Guy Rose, *Laguna Eucalyptus*, circa 1917. Oil on canvas, 40 x 30 in.  
UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum

Emil J. Kosa Jr., *Freeway Beginning*, circa 1948. Watercolor on heavy wove paper, 22 x 30 in.  
The Buck Collection at UCI Institute and Museum of California Art.

Louis Betts, *Mid-Winter, Coronado Beach*, circa 1907. Oil on canvas, 29 x 24 in.  
UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum