

March 7, 2022

**UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art
Announces 2021 Acquisitions of Works by Six Artists**

Irvine, CA...Today, UC Irvine Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art (Langson IMCA) announced six new acquisitions that entered the museum's growing collection in 2021. The gifts of artworks represent a range of genres and mediums by artists responding to the California experience, dating from the early 20th century to 2019. Langson IMCA's holdings of over 4,500 works span 19th century California Impressionism and *plein air* painting to Post-War and contemporary art.

Langson IMCA Museum Director Kim Kanatani said, "These highly individual artworks greatly enhance and deepen our growing collection, enriching opportunities for dialogue, research, and presentation. **John Paul Jones's** ethereal lithograph, **Stanton Macdonald-Wright's** coastal scene, **Helen Pashgian's** luminous canvas, **Edgar Payne's** dynamic landscape, and **Jan Stussy's** meticulous drawing broaden our holdings of their work and enable further appreciation for their distinctive practices. We are delighted that **Jay Lynn Gomez**, an artist new to our collection, is represented with a vibrant mixed-media work. We are profoundly grateful to our generous donors, who are helping us continue to expand and diversify our collection."

The 2019 work by Ramiro Gomez (now Jay Lynn Gomez) (b. 1986) contains themes of landscape, labor, race, and representation. Her paintings highlight often unseen workers, in particular Latinx nannies, gardeners, construction workers, and valets. She inserts cardboard cutout figures into visual representations of landscapes where they



are otherwise often omitted. Gomez places the cutout figures free standing around exhibitions of her work and collages them onto her paintings as she has in *Sometimes I Daydream of Flying Away* (2019). The work reveals the artist's and subjects' identities as well as features specific to Southern California.

Gift of Robert Hayden III and Richard Silver

Artist and educator John Paul Jones (1924–1999) was considered a leading American printmaker during the 1960s. His work has been associated with postwar New Figuration, a revival period of figurative painting in the 1960s by such artists as David Hockney, Francis Bacon, Lucian Freud, and Philip Guston. He taught at UCLA

from 1953–1963, where he established the printmaking department, and UC Irvine from 1969–1990. *Untitled* (probably 1962-63) was produced at the Tamarind Lithography Workshop, an important print shop in Los Angeles at the time. Inspired by European artists like Giacometti, Bacon, and Goya, shadowy figures emerging from dark backgrounds are a recurring motif in Jones's work.

Gift of Theodore Barnett

Stanton Macdonald-Wright (1890–1973) launched the Synchronism movement in 1913 in Paris together with American artist Morgan Russell (1886–1953). Considered one of the first American modernist movements, Synchronism advanced the theory that light, space, and form could be evoked through the modulation of color alone. Macdonald-Wright was introduced to Chinese art while studying at the Sorbonne, in Paris, in 1907–1908. East Asian art would be an ongoing source of inspiration for the artist and educator throughout his life.



Coastal Landscape (1950) demonstrates his engagement with Chinese and Japanese painting styles, here applied to California coastal scenes.

Gift of Maxine Stussy Frankel



In the 1960s, Helen Pashgian (b.1934) was an early pioneer of and central figure in the Light and Space movement in Southern California where she currently lives and works. She employs industrial materials to produce sculptural works that manipulate light, making light itself as a medium. *S+T* (1984) is one of a series of transitional works from the 1970s and 1980s during which she experimented with new materials

and developed resin recipes. Langson IMCA's collection includes five other works by Pashgian spanning the 1960s–2010s.

Gift of Huddie Ryland Behrens and Amy Behrens

Primarily self-taught, Edgar Payne (1883–1947) is widely recognized as one of the most prominent California Impressionist painters of the early to mid-20th century. An avid *plein air* artist, he produced dramatic coastal views and mountainous scenes of which the Sierra Nevada Mountains was a favorite. *Snow in the High Sierras* (early 20th century) showcases Payne's modulation of color to produce atmospheric depth. Langson IMCA's collection includes eight other paintings by Payne.

Donated in memory of Christian A. Gerola





Artist, film producer, and arts educator Jan Stussy (1921–1990) took an eclectic figurative approach that went against the grain of Post-War abstract expressionism, the dominant style of the period. His idiosyncratic paintings and drawings of contorted figures bring together cubist, surrealist, and expressionist characteristics. *Landscape* (1959), a graphite work on paper, illustrates the importance of Chinese and Japanese art for Stussy, an interest passed down to him from his mentor, Stanton Macdonald-Wright. It demonstrates Stussy's commitment to draftsmanship,

something he espoused as an educator as a core element of an arts curriculum.

Gift of Maxine Stussy Frankel

For more about Langson IMCA's collection and its programs, visit imca.uci.edu.

About UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art

UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art (Langson IMCA) is home to two foundational collections of California Art—The Irvine Museum Collection of more than 1,300 works includes California Impressionist and *plein air* paintings, and The Buck Collection, which includes 3,200-plus works with a concentration in California modern, Post-War, and 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. Open to the public Tuesday through Saturday 10 am – 4 pm, Langson IMCA is located in an interim museum space at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100, and admission is free. Please note the museum is closed temporarily through June 10, 2022, for Airport Tower building renovations. For more information, visit imca.uci.edu.

About the University of California, Irvine (UCI)

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.

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Image Captions (top to bottom)

Ramiro Gomez (now Jay Lynn Gomez), *Sometimes I Daydream of Flying Away*, 2019. Acrylic, house paint and cardboard on canvas. 72 1/4 x 96 1/4 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Robert Hayden III and Richard Silver

John Paul Jones, *Untitled*, Probably 1962-1963. Lithograph. 11 x 7 1/2 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Theodore Barnett

Stanton Macdonald-Wright, *Coastal Landscape*, 1950. Graphite on paper. 19 3/4 x 26 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Maxine Stussy Frankel

Helen Pashgian, *S+T*, 1984. Epoxy on canvas. 48 x 90 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift from the collection of Huddie Ryland Behrens and Amy Behrens

Edgar Payne, *Snow in the High Sierras*, Early 20th century. Oil on canvas. 31 x 39 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Donated in Memory of Christian A. Gerola

Jan Stussy, *Landscape*, 1959. Graphite on paper. 29 x 22 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Maxine Stussy Frankel