Summer Exhibition Open through Early September!

*Variations of Place: Southern California Impressionism in the Early 20th Century* is on view through September 3, 2022. Don’t miss the opportunity to see 33 paintings representing 22 artists who settled in the artist enclaves and coastal communities of Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Barbara in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Drawn from both Langson IMCA holdings and private collections, the exhibition features seascapes, landscapes, and figure paintings. Artists include Franz A. Bischoff, Maurice Braun, Colin Campbell Cooper, John Frost (*Autumn Oak*, pictured above), Anna Althea Hills, Guy Rose, William Wendt, and others responding to Southern California's temperate climes and variety of natural features.

Plan Your Visit
Staff Announcement
Langson IMCA welcomes Michaëla Mohrmann as Curatorial and Research Associate. Michaëla holds a PhD in art history from Columbia University, where she broadly trained in modern and contemporary art and specialized in Latin American and Latinx art. For the last year, she has worked as an independent curator, creating exhibitions for the Institute for Studies on Latin American Art, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Pace Gallery, where she worked as Associate Curatorial Director and curated the upcoming exhibition *Irving Penn: Burning Off the Page*. She has also completed curatorial fellowships at the Museum of Modern Art (NY) and National Museum of Korea. In her spare time, she enjoys planting native trees and removing trash and invasive species from California’s wilderness.
Featured Work: *Autumn Glory*

“The rise of painting *en plein air* across the nineteenth century was coextensive with the rise of landscape painting as a legitimate artistic genre. In the early nineteenth century, landscapes were only a worthy subject of attention if they provided the backdrop to a mythological or historical tableau. By the end of that century, it was a truism that landscapes, particularly natural landscapes, were worthy of attention in their own right” ([theartstory.org](http://theartstory.org)).

Author, essayist, and nature writer Barry Lopez (1945 – 2020) grew up in California’s San Fernando Valley and through his writing “tried to tighten the bonds between people and place.” In his essay “Literature of Place,” he wrote, “It is my belief that human imagination is shaped by the architecture it encounters at an early age. The visual landscape, of course, or the depth, elevation, and hues of a cityscape play a part here, as does the way sunlight everywhere etches lines to accentuate forms. But the way we imagine is also affected by streams of scent flowing faint or sharp in the larger ocean of air; by what the North American composer John Luther Adams calls the sonic landscape; and, say, by an awareness of how temperature and humidity rise and fall in a place over a year. My imagination was shaped by the exotic nature of water in a dry southern California valley; by the sound of wind in the crowns of eucalyptus trees; by the tactile sensation of sheened earth, turned in furrows by a gang plow; by banks of saffron, mahogany and scarlet cloud piled above a field of alfalfa at dusk; by encountering the musk from orange blossoms at the edge of an orchard; by the aftermath of a Pacific storm crashing a hot, flat beach. Added to the nudge of these sensations was an awareness of the height and breadth of the sky, and of the geometry and force of the wind.”
The artist Benjamin Brown (1865 – 1942), an Arkansas native, visited Southern California in 1886 and moved to Pasadena 10 years later. He was one of the first artists to settle and establish a painting practice in the city in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. As seen in his painting *Autumn Glory* (pictured above), Brown’s expressive vocabulary, like Lopez’s, was unequivocally shaped by the colors, seasonal transitions, and sensorial landscapes of the Golden State.

Langson IMCA is pleased to include Benjamin Brown’s *Autumn Glory* (circa 1920) in its collection and in the summer exhibition, *Variations of Place*.

Meet Langson IMCA’s Summer Gallery Guides
UCI student gallery guides are stewards of the visitor experience at Langson IMCA’s interim location and ambassadors for the museum on campus. They have an important role to play—they welcome and orient visitors, direct access to resources, promote public programs, help keep the art safe from damage, and engage visitors in conversation about the art, artists, and ideas presented in exhibitions. The gallery guide program offers
undergraduate and graduate students across disciplines an opportunity to connect with museum and campus communities, develop leadership and communication skills, foster curiosity and critical thinking with others, and improve access to transformative arts experiences for all.

Please join Langson IMCA in welcoming the Summer 2022 cohort of UCI student gallery guides (clockwise from upper left): Morgan Matthews, BA Art, 2022 and MA Art History, 2023; Jennifer Melgar, Educational Sciences, Film and Media Studies, 2023; Jessica Shaw, Business Administration, 2025; Milena Raeber, Dance, Environmental Science and Policy, 2024; Kelly Kang, Psychological Sciences, 2024; Melody Chan-Yoeun, Visual Art, Informatics, 2024; and Allyssa Capiral, Art History, 2023.

Musings
In Kim Abeles’s *The Migration of Thought*, disembodied hands from the outer galaxy appear to steer artery-like tubes looping out from Earth. Silhouettes of objects, including a book, laptop, fork, and #235, float in space like constellations. Through this serigraph, I am reminded how much the networked environment and global exchange of information has transformed my field and career as a librarian. Is Abeles depicting the hands of an intergalactic Wizard of Oz or a higher being that circulates information? Is the imagery a playful metaphor for how knowledge evolves and begets new knowledge? For me, this whimsical artwork poses more questions than it answers. It appeals to my innate curiosity and interest in puzzles and paradoxes—the DNA of librarians and researchers around the world.

Lorelei Tanji
University Librarian, UCI Libraries
Painting Workshop with Rick J. Delanty
Join artist Rick J. Delanty on Tuesday, August 23 from 9 am – 3 pm for Capturing Light: Fundamentals of Plein Air Painting. This multi-part program focuses on the ways that light affects the application of color in California Impressionism. The day begins in the exhibition Variations of Place: Southern California Impressionism in the Early 20th Century with close-looking exercises facilitated by Delanty. After this gallery experience, participants move to the Education Studio for drawing activities, and then outdoors where they easel paint en plein air using the surrounding natural and built environment as subject matter.

About the Artist
Rick J. Delanty has painted the California landscape en plein air and from his San Clemente studio for more than four decades. He is best known for his impressionist style and has been recognized with numerous awards and accolades. A lifelong educator, Delanty taught painting and drawing at San Clemente High School from 1974 to 2006 where he also served as chair of the art department. He continues to teach workshops and classes for adults and was selected for the faculty of the 2019 National Plein Air Convention in San Francisco, CA. His new book, Beauty Unites Us (2021), includes more than 50 of his paintings accompanied by essays reflecting on his life and artistic practice. His work has appeared in Plein Air and Southwest Art magazines, as well as American Art Collector and Fine Art Connoisseur.

Program Information
This program is free and open to artists of all abilities over the age of 18. Please note this workshop is designed for participants with some basic drawing skills and previous experience painting outdoors. All supplies are provided by Langson IMCA. Participants must comply with current UCI COVID-19 protocols. As of July 18, 2022, all visitors over the
age of 2, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask over their nose and mouth while indoors on University of California, Irvine properties.

Advance registration is required as space is limited.

Featured Work: California Hills
Hawthorne, CA native Dana Gioia (b. 1950) is an acclaimed poet, writer, and former California Poet Laureate and chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. Gioia is the first person in his family to attend college, earning a BA and MBA from Stanford University and an MA from Harvard University in Comparative Literature. His poem, “California Hills in August” (below), was written in 1986 and is included in Fire and Rain: Ecopoetry of California published by Scarlet Tanager Books in 2018.

California Hills in August
I can imagine someone who found these fields unbearable, who climbed the hillside in the heat, cursing the dust, cracking the brittle weeds underfoot, wishing a few more trees for shade.

An Easterner especially, who would scorn the meagerness of summer, the dry twisted shapes of black elm,
scrub oak, and chaparral, a landscape
August has already drained of green.

One who would hurry over the clinging
thistle, foxtail, golden poppy,
knowing everything was just a weed,
unable to conceive that these trees
and sparse brown bushes were alive.

Read the entire poem at Poetry Foundation

Langson IMCA is pleased to include California Hills (1914) by Maurice Braun, pictured
above, in its collection and in the summer exhibition Variations of Place.

Making Together: Lay of the Land
For this month's activity, we invite our readers to make together in the Education Studio at
Langson IMCA. Drop-in studio activities are free and open to visitors of all ages and
abilities.

The activity, Lay of the Land, is inspired by the works on view in Variations of Place:
Southern California Impressionism in the Early 20th Century and artist Carly Glovinski’s
project, Canning the Sunset.

We look forward to making together with you. And don't forget to tag #layoftheland and
#uciimca when posting images of your project on social media.

Check out Langson IMCA's gallery guides in action.

See you soon!
Credits

John Frost, *Autumn Oak*, 1921, Oil on canvas, 26 x 30 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum

Michaëla Mohrmann. Photo courtesy of Michaëla Mohrmann

Benjamin Brown, *Autumn Glory*, circa 1920, Oil on canvas, 28 x 36 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum

Summer 2022 cohort of Langson IMCA student gallery guides. Photos by Julie Delliquanti and Sebastián Vizcaíno Cortés © The Regents of the University of California


Rick J. Delanty. Photo courtesy of Rick J. Delanty

Maurice Braun, *California Hills*, 1914, Oil on canvas, 40 x 53 in. UC Irvine Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum
