

For Immediate Release
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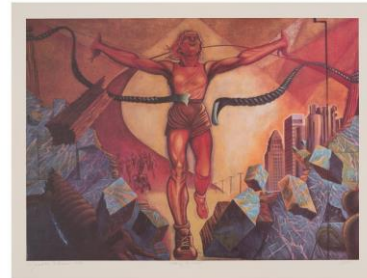
Langson IMCA Announces Recent Acquisition of 25 Artworks Expanding its Representation of Influential Artists with Ties to California

Irvine, CA...UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art (Langson IMCA) announced the recent acquisition of 25 works of art this last fiscal year, including new commissions. Langson IMCA's acquisition strategy aims to diversify and deepen the permanent collection that spans 19th century California Impressionism and *plein air* paintings to Post-War modern and contemporary art. See the full list of artists below.

Langson IMCA Museum Director Kim Kanatani said, "We are delighted to be deepening and broadening our collection in meaningful ways and are profoundly grateful to our donors who support this mission to represent the art of California. These works across mediums are exemplars of artists responding to the state's unique culture and whose practices and subject matter explore issues of their times and continue to have resonance today."

Highlighted works include:

Muralist and political activist **Judy Baca** (b. 1946, Los Angeles, CA) was also a professor in University of California, Irvine's influential Department of Art (1981–1994), followed by the César E. Chavez Department of Chicana/o and Central American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles (1996–2021). *Hitting the Wall* (1986), a work gifted in memory of UCI Professor Emeritus Michael D. Butler, repeats an image from the artist's mural commissioned by the city to commemorate the 1984 Summer Olympics, the first to include a women's marathon. (The mural was overpainted by a city contractor in 2019 as graffiti remediation and since 2021 has been undergoing restoration.) This giclée print enhances Langson IMCA's holdings of work associated with the Chicano Art Movement in Southern California from the 1960s to the present.



Untitled 19 and *Untitled 20* (both 2014) are two acquisitions from **Erica Deeman's** (b. 1977, Nottingham, UK) *Silhouettes* series, in which she photographed Black women against stark white backgrounds. Deeman found sitters through street casting in San Francisco, where she lives and works. By foregrounding each subject's serene demeanor, the series subverts the complex historical legacy of silhouettes and their use in the racist pseudoscience of physiognomy. Moreover, two portraits from her 2016 series *Brown* add a contemporary perspective on the representation of the African Diaspora to Langson IMCA's collection.



In *THEY: A Temple of Black Possibility [Allensworth Pt. 1-3]* (2022)—commissioned by Langson IMCA for its 2022 exhibition *Dissolve*—interdisciplinary artist **Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle** (b. 1987,

Louisville, KY) conjures dream-like images by collaging reproductions of archival photographs and postcards layered against blue and yellow backgrounds. The work is based on Hinkle’s ongoing research into her own family’s presence in Allensworth, the first Black-founded city in California. Founded in 1908, Allensworth was intended as a self-sufficient sanctuary for Black people with its own infrastructure, but the town ultimately was abandoned due to drought and water contamination. Hinkle resurrects its memory to suggest the continued possibility of Black utopias. This is among the first of three works commissioned by Langson IMCA.



Untitled (Elements, Nature) (circa 1987) by **Matt Mullican** (b. 1951, Santa Monica, CA) complements Langson IMCA’s collection of landscapes while also departing from its focus on representation to explore symbols and signs. This marks the first work by the artist to enter the collection, expanding holdings of an important generation of artists who attended the California Institute of the Arts. The painting joins works by Mullican’s father Lee Mullican and teacher John Baldessari.

The photographs of **Julius Shulman** (b. 1910, Brooklyn, NY, d. 2009, Los Angeles, CA) are among the most widely known and published images of Southern California’s midcentury architecture. *Capri Theater, San Diego* (1954) depicts a movie theater that was remodeled in a modernist design whose lobby became an improvised art exhibition space. Like many of the buildings Shulman photographed, the theater no longer exists, having been demolished in 2003. This is the first Shulman to enter the collection, an important expansion of Langson IMCA’s photography holdings reflecting the history of midcentury modernism in the region.



Kanatani added, “Welcoming these artists to our collection—some with direct connections to UCI—is especially significant. Each embodies compelling stories about the artist’s life, their individual practices, and the impact of place on their work. We look forward to sharing these stories and artworks in future exhibitions and programs.”

Works by the following artists were acquired by Langson IMCA from July 2022 through June 2023:

Judy Baca
 Esther Bruton
 Lia Cook
 Erica Deeman
 Rodney Ewing
 Linda Gass
 Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle
 John Paul Jones

Matt Mullican
 William Ritschel
 Sonia Romero
 Millard Sheets
 Julius Shulman
 James Turrell
 Paul Wonner

The next exhibition at Langson's IMCA's interim museum space in Irvine is [Bohemian of the Arroyo Seco: Idah Meacham Strobridge](#), opening September 30, 2023.

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 gifts of California Art from The Irvine Museum and Gerald E. Buck estate. In addition, the permanent collection of more than 4,500 works from the late 19th century and early 20th century through present day continues to grow, augmented by acquisitions and gifts. The university will construct a permanent museum and research institute to serve as a global magnet for the presentation and study of California Art within its social, historical, environmental, and cultural frameworks. The facility is slated to open in 2027. Langson IMCA operates an interim museum space at 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Suite 100 in Irvine, CA. It is open to all, and admission and parking are free. For more information, visit imca.uci.edu.

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. Follow us on Instagram @uciimca.

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Media Contacts

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Image Captions (top to bottom)

Judy Baca, *Hitting the Wall*, 1986, Giclée print, 20 x 26 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift in memory of UCI Professor Emeritus Michael D. Butler

Erica Deeman, *Untitled 19*, 2014, Digital chromogenic print, 45 x 45 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, museum purchase, © Erica Deeman 2023, courtesy of Anthony Meier, Mill Valley

Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle, *THEY: A Temple of Black Possibility [Allensworth Pt. 1-3]*, 2022, Arches cover, acrylic paint, magazine, glitter, watercolor paper, cotton paper on inkjet print, Dimensions variable. Commissioned by UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art on occasion of the Dissolve exhibition (2022), museum purchase with additional support by Janet Mohle-Botani, © 2022 Kenyatta A.C. Hinkle

Matt Mullican, *Untitled (Elements, Nature)*, circa 1987, Oilstick on canvas, 120 x 180 x 3 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Adam J. Liff and Ann Marie Plane

Julius Shulman, *Capri Theater, San Diego*, 1954, Gelatin silver print, 20 x 24 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of Craig Krull