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EXHIBITIONS

Upcoming



Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890–1930

Opens March 2, 2024

Spiritual Geographies explores the relationship among nature, landscape art, and religion in California from the 1890s to 1930. The exhibition considers how the geographical nature of landscape painting lent itself to spiritual meanings that were conveyed and circulated within religious printed materials of the time. As readers and writers of this devotional literature, California's leading impressionist and early modernist artists painted landscapes that reflected both traditional and progressive spiritual ideas, contributing to the national perception of California as a place tolerant of experimentation and individual expression.

Examining a variety of religious perspectives, *Spiritual Geographies* traces how Protestant Evangelism, Theosophy, nature mysticism, and California's Catholic colonial heritage shaped depictions of the state's countryside and wilderness—places whose awesome beauty was simultaneously changing popular understandings of the sacred. The exhibition, which is accompanied by rare books and archival materials, also addresses the contradictions and limits of California's purported openness to different belief systems. In so doing, it recognizes the enduring spiritual meaning of nature and landmarks to the region's Indigenous peoples, who were often forcefully converted to Christianity and dispossessed of their ancestral lands.

[Learn More](#)

Virtual



Beyond the Frame: Impressions of California

Designed as an immersive experience of landscape painting from Langson IMCA's permanent collection, this online presentation includes archival photography and recorded texts that illuminate the selected works.

[Visit the Online Exhibition](#)

PROGRAM



Gallery Talk | Michaëla Mohrmann, PhD, on *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890–1930*

Saturday, March 2, 2024

11 am

Langson IMCA, 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine

Parking in the Airport Tower structure is free and validated for all museum visitors.

Join Michaëla Mohrmann, PhD, Langson IMCA Assistant Curator and curator of *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890–1930*, for a gallery talk on the exhibition. Following the talk, Mohrmann will be available to answer questions and speak with visitors and program attendees.

This program is free and open to the public. Advance registration is not required.

[Learn More](#)

ART CARDS



Langson IMCA makes available to all visitors a rotating selection of mailable art cards featuring works from its collection. Located just inside the front entrance, the free art cards provide an opportunity to share works of California Art with the public. Feel free to pick up a few during your next visit.

TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Langson IMCA's interim location is currently closed during exhibition changeover through March 1, 2024. The museum reopens with regular hours on March 2, 2024: Tuesday through Saturday 10 am to 4 pm.

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Credits ([top to bottom](#), [left to right](#))

Agnes Pelton, *Water Mill, Long Island*, 1927, Oil on canvas, 32 x 36 in. The Buck Collection at UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art.

Thomas Hill, *Following the Trail, Hetch Hetchy*, 1880, Oil on canvas, 20 x 30 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum.

Beyond the Frame: Impressions of California, a virtual exhibition commissioned by UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, 2022. Image courtesy of Imaginary Places

Michaëla Mohrmann, photo courtesy of Michaëla Mohrmann

Julie Mathilde Morrow, *In the Mission Garden, San Juan Capistrano*, 1928, Oil on canvas, 26 x 30 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum.

Langson IMCA visitors with art cards. Photo by Julie Delliquanti, © The Regents of the University of California

UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art
University of California, Irvine
Irvine, CA 92697-1010

949-476-0003 imca.uci.edu

Interim Museum Location: 18881 Von Karman Ave, Irvine 92612

Interim Museum Hours: Tuesday – Saturday | 10 am – 4 pm

Office Hours: Tuesday – Saturday | 8:30 am – 5 pm

Always free and open to all

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Langson IMCA's ongoing collections research continues to provide new information, which will result in updates, revisions, and enhancements to object records. At the time of publication image credits are reviewed by Langson IMCA's curatorial staff and reflect the most current information the museum has in its database but may be incomplete.

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