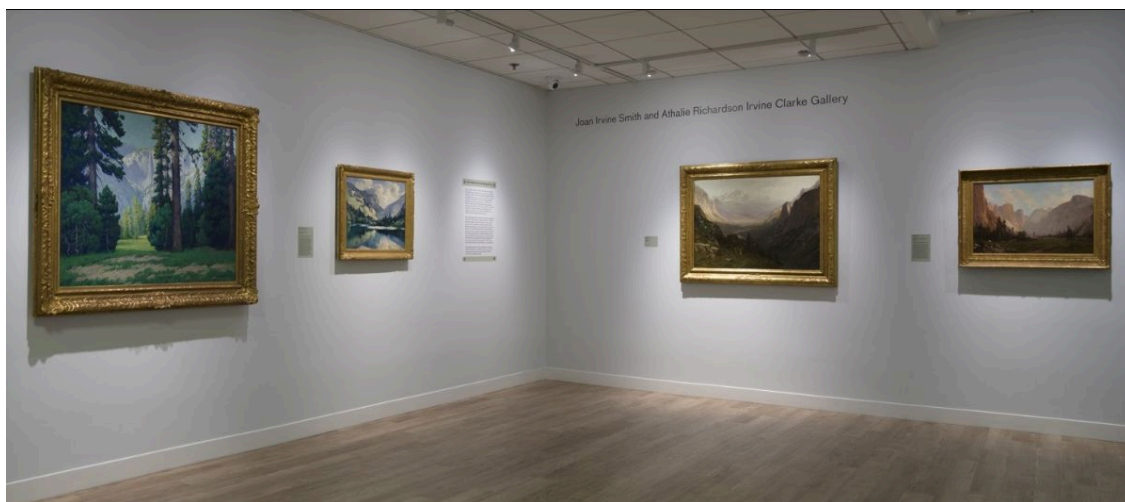


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## EXHIBITIONS

### On View



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

Through June 8, 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 print material of the time. As readers and writers of this devotional literature, California's leading impressionist and early modernist artists created 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](#)

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## 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](#)

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## Upcoming



### ***Plein-Air en Plein Air***

On view April 12 – 13, 2024, dusk to dawn (7 pm PT April 12 to midnight PT April 13)

UCI Social Sciences Hall

202 Social Court, Irvine, CA

*Plein-Air en Plein Air* returns California landscape painting to the outdoors and presents a dynamic art experience in an unexpected setting. Images of artworks from Langson IMCA's permanent collection will be projected onto the exterior surfaces of buildings in UCI's School of Social Sciences complex, transforming part of campus into an open-air gallery over the course of two nights. This commissioned installation is designed by Jesse Colin Jackson, associate professor of Electronic Art & Design; associate dean of research and innovation; and executive director of the Beall Center for Art + Technology at UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts. *Plein-Air en Plein Air* (which means “outdoors in the outdoors” in French) situates two views in dialogue with one another: the present-day architecture and landscape of UCI's campus with the now-historic California environs painted by artists in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Langson IMCA strives to make its collections available to broad and diverse publics through multifaceted programming that invites the participation of both campus and community audiences. *Plein-Air en Plein Air* builds on the curatorial activities of another project commissioned by Langson IMCA, *Beyond the Frame: Impressions of California*, noted above and created by the [design studio Imaginary Places](#).

*Plein-Air en Plein Air* is a creative collaboration at UCI among Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Beall Center for Art + Technology at Claire Trevor School of the Arts, and School of Social Sciences.

[Learn More](#)

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## **STAFF NEWS**

### **Speaking Engagements**



Bridget R. Cooks, Langson IMCA associate director and UCI professor and chancellor's fellow of African American Studies and Art History, is a panelist in the symposium, “Why Black Museums: Exhibitions and Relations,” hosted by the Black Studies Collective at The University of Texas at Austin on March 7, 2024. The symposium explores the connections among past and present

exhibitions of Black art and historical objects. This event is offered in a hybrid format and

those participating virtually can access the event on the [Art Galleries at Black Studies' YouTube Channel](#). For more information, visit <https://www.galleriesatut.org/>.

Cooks also recently spoke with Ben Davis on Artnet's Art Angle Podcast about the Metropolitan Museum of Art's new exhibition, *The Harlem Renaissance and Transatlantic Modernism*, and the history behind it. She is one of a group of experts on the advisory committee for the exhibition. [You can listen here](#).

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## Appointment



Langson IMCA is pleased to welcome Christin Newell as curatorial research associate. She comes to Irvine from the University of Oregon's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, where she ably supported the Curatorial and Collections Departments and contributed to over a dozen exhibitions. Newell holds degrees in Fine and Applied Arts, Arts Management, and Art History, including an MA in Art History from the University of Oregon. She has a background in California Art, as well as expertise in East Asian art and Western European art. Please join us in welcoming Christin to UCI and Langson IMCA.

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## Gallery Guides

Langson IMCA is proud to share news about some of our former gallery guides—all UCI alumni with new positions in the gallery and museum fields. Catherine Do is a gallery teacher at the San José Museum of Art (San José, CA). Morgan Matthews recently completed a short-term position at The Huntington Library, Art Museums, and Botanical Gardens and is now art collections specialist at the Festival of Arts of Laguna Beach. Alexandria Ryahl is a gallery administrator at Roberts Projects (Los Angeles, CA). Shawnee Stevens is a gallery attendant at the Saint Louis Art Museum (St. Louis, MO). Congratulations and all best wishes to our former colleagues!

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

*Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930* (installation view), 2024, UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, photo by Jeff McLane

*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

Renderings of *Plein-Air en Plein Air* projection mapping installation onto the UCI Social Science Tower (Albert C. Martin & Associates, 1971) featuring projected images of (L) Granville Redmond, *California Landscape with Flowers*, circa 1931, Oil on canvas, 32 x 80 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum; and (R) Hanson Duvall Puthuff, *Mystical Hills*, circa 1922, Oil on canvas, 26 x 34 in. UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art, Gift of The Irvine Museum. Courtesy of Jesse Colin Jackson, 2024.

Bridget R. Cooks. Photo by Steve Zylius / UCI

Christin Newell. Courtesy of Christin Newell

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](http://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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