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LEADERSHIP TRANSITION

Kim Kanatani, inaugural museum director for UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art (Langson IMCA), announced her resignation, effective March 28, 2024. An interim director will be named by the provost in the coming weeks and a search to fill the position will follow.

During her tenure, Kanatani oversaw the preliminary planning for UC Irvine's museum initiative. She led the development of Langson IMCA's conceptual and strategic plans and enhanced the collection with art conservation projects and acquisitions, and new research and scholarship. Kanatani prioritized professional development and career training for UCI undergraduate and graduate students, and initiated arts education programs for K-12 schools in the greater Irvine area. During her tenure, museum staff and guest curators organized 19 exhibitions with related public programming.



Prior to joining UCI, Kanatani led educational initiatives at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York for 18 years, rising to deputy director in 2010. She also held senior positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery.

In announcing her resignation, Kanatani said, "I came to Langson IMCA in 2019 to guide a collaborative vision for the new museum and institute, and to advance the development of a purpose-built facility. This vision has been at the core of our exhibitions, programs, and educational pursuits, and informed preliminary planning for the new building. I have been honored to help lay this essential groundwork. And now I am returning to my home and family in New York to explore opportunities for the next phase of my career in the nonprofit cultural sector. I am so grateful to the UCI community—the faculty, students, artists, scholars, donors, and others with whom I have had the great privilege to work."

Langson IMCA staff, colleagues, and partners wish her well in all her future endeavors.

EXHIBITIONS

On View



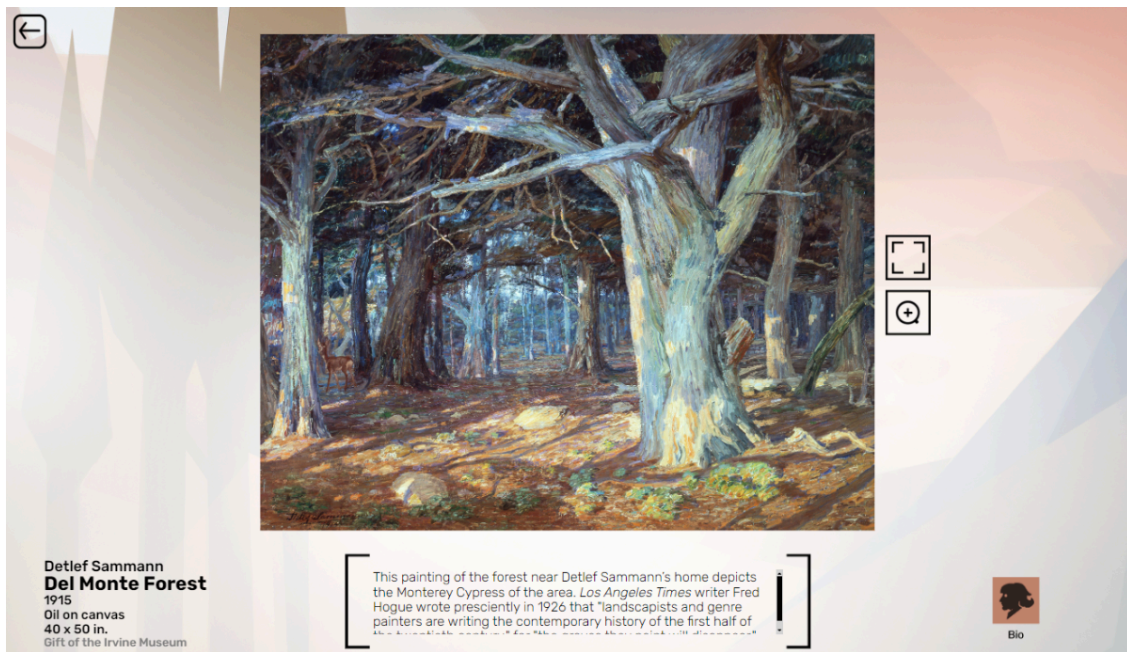
Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930

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 geographies 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. The selection of 36 works of art is accompanied by rare books and archival materials.

[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](#)

Upcoming



Plein-Air en Plein Air

April 12 – 14, 2024 (7 pm April 12 to midnight / 12 am April 14)

UCI Social Sciences Lab

202 Social Court, Irvine, CA

Parking is available and recommended at Social Sciences Parking Structure. Visitors may purchase a permit at any information kiosk, dispenser, or through UCI's ParkbyPlate signage located in select parking areas. All options accept major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover). A map to navigate UCI Parking can be found

[here](#). For those wishing to pre-register their vehicle, please confirm your vehicle details here at [ParkbyPlate](#). The parking kiosk at Social Sciences Parking Structure will be staffed until 9 pm to sell permits to those that did not pre-register.

Plein-Air en Plein Air returns a selection of California landscape paintings to the outdoors in 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 evenings. 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](#).

This installation is made possible, in part, by support from the Traditional Fine Arts Organization.

Learn More

Please join us at the installation site:

Reception | Friday, April 12, 7 – 9 pm

RSVP is recommended but not required. This event is open to all. Light refreshments will be served. Please feel free to forward this invitation or invite a guest.

For questions, please contact Jamie Bigman at jamieh6@uci.edu | [949-824-1429](tel:949-824-1429)

RSVP

Contest: Details on Instagram [@langsonimca](#) [#pleinairatUCI](#)

From April 8 – 14, we are offering a chance to win a \$100 Amazon gift card. Anyone in the Anteater community can participate—students, staff, faculty, and alumni. Follow us on Instagram [@langsonimca](#) and [@ucirvine](#), and tell us the name of your favorite California artist. A winner will be selected at random from all participants on April 16.

PROGRAMS



Site-specific performance | *Plein-Air en Plein Air + Beyond the Frame: Impressions of California* with the design team Imaginary Places

Saturday, April 13, 2024

7:30 – 8:30 pm

UCI Social Sciences Lab | Outdoor upper terrace

202 Social Court, Irvine, CA 92612

Parking is available in UCI's Social Sciences Parking Structure. See parking details above.

Please join us for a one-time site-specific performance at the site of *Plein-Air en Plein Air* with Itamar Kubovny and Stefanie Sobelle of the design team Imaginary Places. They will bring their digital exhibition *Beyond the Frame* to life through sound, music, and literary readings in the architectural context of the *Plein-Air en Plein Air* installation. This unique and dynamic experience will spark dialogue and shed new light on late 19th- and early 20th-century California landscape paintings.

For questions and to RSVP, please contact Yomna Shadoufa at y.shadoufa@uci.edu | [949-232-3147](tel:949-232-3147)

RSVP is recommended, but not required. The program is open to all.



Workshop | Exploring Spiritual Creativity with Serena Brinderson

Saturday, April 20, 2024

9:30 – 11:30 am

Langson IMCA, 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine

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

Inspired by *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930*, teaching artist Serena Brinderson leads a guided meditation, breathwork, and sound bath followed by an art making workshop in the Education Studio. The workshop begins with quiet, contemplative experiences in the gallery followed by a brief introduction to the exhibition by Assistant Curator Michaëla Mohrmann, PhD. This introduction focuses on the works of artist Agnes Pelton and offers insights into the exhibition's key themes of religion and mysticism. In the studio, participants then use a variety of organic materials to make an abstract artwork exploring related ideas about intuition and spirituality.

Free and open to youth and adults ages 16+. Space is limited. Advance registration is required.

[REGISTER](#)



Gallery Talk with Dada Wang

Saturday, April 27, 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 Dada Wang, UCI graduate student researcher, for a Mandarin and English hybrid gallery talk highlighting four works in *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 - 1930*.

欢迎大家参与由博士生研究员王见大带领的中英混合展览讲解，重点介绍《心灵景观：加州宗教与风景艺术，1890 - 1930》中的四件作品。

Save the Date

Drop-in Family Workshop

Saturday, May 11, 2024

10 am – 1 pm

Langson IMCA, 18881 Von Karman Avenue, Irvine

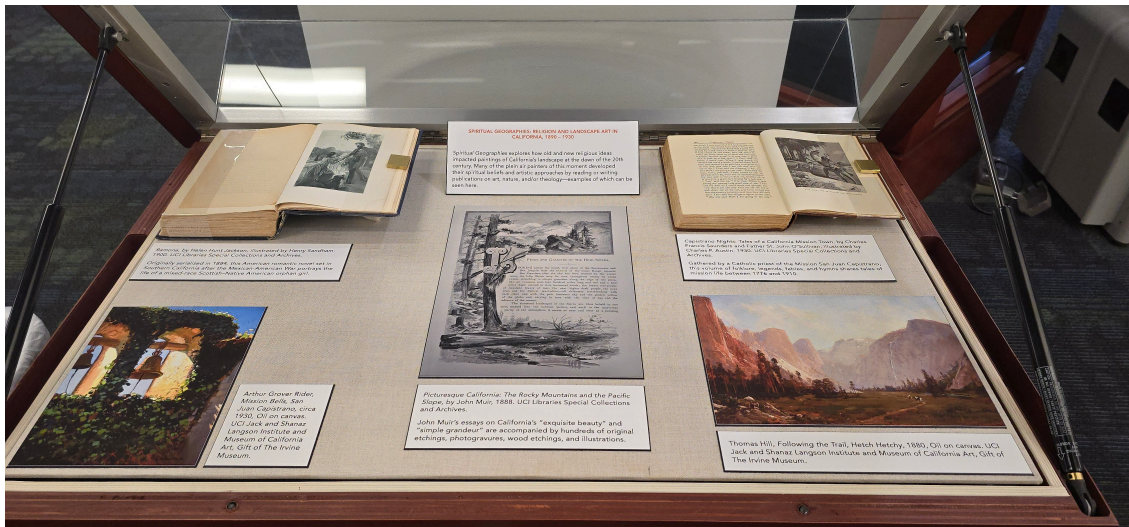
Parking in the Airport Tower structure is free and validated for all museum visitors.

Join artist Marianne Sadowski for a fun and educational hands-on workshop focused on printmaking.

Workshop activities benefit from being at the museum for a minimum of one hour. Please arrive by 12 pm in order to complete the project on site.

SNAPSHOT

UCI Libraries Vitrine



A display of archival materials related to the exhibition *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930* is on view in the entrance lobby of Langson Library. Co-curated by UCI Libraries' Communication and Events Officer Cheryl Baltes and Langson IMCA Assistant Curator Michaëla Mohrmann, PhD, the vitrine includes pages from the first edition of John Muir's book *Picturesque California* (1888), and editions of *Ramona* (1900) by Helen Hunt Jackson and *Capistrano Nights: Tales of a California Mission Town* (1930) by Charles Francis Saunders and Father St. John O'Sullivan.

IN MEMORIAM



It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of artist, curator, and UCI Professor of Art Emerita Yong Soon Min, who died on March 12, 2024, at her home in Los Angeles. Through her multidisciplinary practice, Min investigated the ongoing Korean War, colonialism, intersections of memory and history, and diasporic identity. She was an innovator in the field of American installation art beginning in the 1990s and an inspiration to countless students and art audiences internationally.

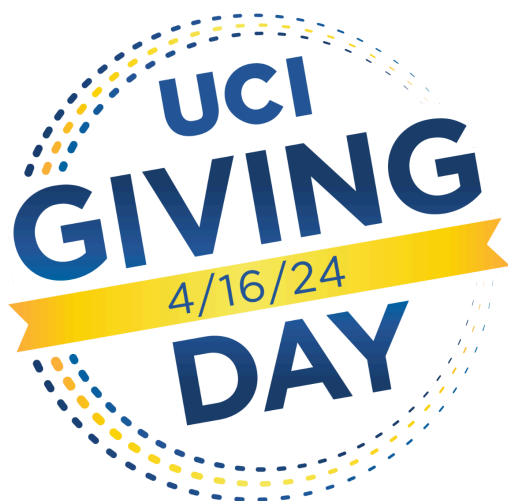
Min immigrated to the United States at the age of seven and earned her BA, MA, and MFA degrees from UC Berkeley. Since 1980, Min exhibited her work throughout the US and internationally. She joined the faculty of the Department of Art at UC Irvine in 1993. During her 21 years of teaching, Min urged students to mine their life experiences as a valuable resource for creativity and encourage them to think critically and embrace experimentation in their art practices. Min's investment in her students inspired them long after their time in the classroom and created a community of younger artists connected by her mentorship.

This tribute was adopted from a statement by Bridget R. Cooks, PhD, professor of Art History and African American Studies at UC Irvine and Langson IMCA associate director. Cooks is organizing an exhibition of Yong Soon Min's work this coming fall on campus at UCI, as well as a larger retrospective devoted to the artist's legacy in 2027 – 2028.

LANGSON IMCA IN THE NEWS

An article on the current exhibition, *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930*, was featured on UCI News on February 29. [Read the article here.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: UCI GIVING DAY 2024



UCI Giving Day comes once a year and it is right around the corner—Tuesday, April 16, 2024. This year, we ask for your support of our student engagement programs, which provide professional development opportunities for UCI students interested in pursuing careers in museums or the broader arts world. Your gift will have a significant impact and expand our ability to make connections among our collection, exhibitions, and programs with UCI students and faculty across disciplines.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Langson IMCA.

STAY CONNECTED

Did someone forward you this email? [Subscribe here](#) or follow us on social media to receive the latest updates on Langson IMCA exhibitions, programs, and more. Please note our new Instagram handle: @langsonimca.



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

Kim Kanatani, 2021. Photo by Ralph Palumbo.

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

Itamar Kubovny. Photo courtesy of Itamar Kubovny

Stefanie Sobelle. Photo courtesy of Stefanie Sobelle

Serena Brinderson. Photo courtesy of Serena Brinderson

Agnes Pelton, *San Gorgonio in Spring*, 1932, Oil on canvas, 24 x 30 in. The Buck Collection at UCI Jack and Shanaz Langson Institute and Museum of California Art

Dada Wang. Photo courtesy of Dada Wang

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

Vitrine at the Langson Library. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Baltes

Yong Soon Min, *Make Me*, 1989, courtesy of the artist

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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