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.

We welcome your visit! Please stop in to see the exhibition, browse the library, and create your own artwork in the Education Studio (see Snapshot, below).
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
With its diverse natural landscapes and radiant sunlight, California has drawn artists for more than a century from distant places captivated by its enchanting summers. *Picturing Summer* presents approximately 35 paintings from Langson IMCA's collection, supplemented by works borrowed from private collections. Depicting the state's varied geography and summer lifestyles, these works span different eras and geographical locations, and showcase the allure of the Golden State’s summer season.

**Learn More**

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**PROGRAMS**
Drop-in Family Workshop: Printing the Spirit of Plants  
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 gelli printmaking workshop inspired by artist Henrietta Shore’s lithographs currently on view in *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930*. Participants are prompted to look closely at nature, draw the spirit of a plant, tree, or shrub, and then translate their drawings into gelli plate prints (reusable printing plates made from synthetic gelatin that do not require a press). This free, drop-in program is designed for families with children of all ages. Advance registration is not required.

This workshop activity benefits from a minimal one-hour museum visit; please arrive no later than 12 pm to complete the project onsite.

Learn More

SNAPSHOTS
Me, as a Tree
Throughout the run of *Spiritual Geographies: Religion and Landscape Art in California, 1890 – 1930*, visitors are invited into Langson IMCA’s Education Studio to make a self-portrait. In this case, the self-portrayal is as a tree, inspired by the art works in the exhibition and the many books about trees in our browsing collection. Reproductions of the self-portraits are “planted” in the community forest seen above. Make sure that Visitor Experience staff take a snapshot of your self-portrait before you leave for “planting” in the Studio!
Plein-Air en Plein Air

On April 12, Langson IMCA welcomed the community to a reception for the opening of *Plein-Air en Plein Air*, a dynamic experience of artworks from our permanent collection projected onto the exterior surfaces of buildings in UCI’s School of Social Sciences complex. Itamar Kubovy and Stefanie Sobelle of the design team *Imaginary Places* also brought 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.

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STAFF NEWS

Appointment

Langson IMCA is pleased to welcome Mandi Gonzales as our new assistant director of marketing and communications. She will be leading our promotional efforts, guiding a collaborative team of staff and consultants to build our brand awareness and grow our audiences. Mandi has a bachelor’s degree in communications from Red River College Polytechnic in Winnipeg, Canada, and began her career as a communications assistant at the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre. She has held marketing positions at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, Auto Club of Southern California, and Visit Anaheim. Most recently, Mandi was director of marketing at UCI, responsible for developing and implementing integrated marketing plans to support the university’s $2 billion Brilliant Future campaign. Please join us in welcoming Mandi to Langson IMCA.

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Award

Kevin Appel, Langson IMCA associate director, and professor and chair of the Department of Art at Claire Trevor School of the Arts, has been selected to participate in the Clyfford Still Museum’s first Institute Residential Fellowship Program in Denver this summer. The program focuses on three pillars of study—art, education, and social enterprise—and
Kevin, as a practicing studio artist, is one of five fellows in this first cohort. Congratulations, Kevin!

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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


Marianne Sadowski. Courtesy Marianne Sadowski

Gelli plate print. Courtesy Marianne Sadowski

Me, as a Tree activity, Education Studio, Langson IMCA. Photo by Julie Delliquanti, © The Regents of the University of California

*Plein-Air en Plein Air* projection mapping installation, UCI Social Science Tower. Photos by Misha Davydov. © The Regents of the University of California

Mandi Gonzales. Courtesy Mandi Gonzales

Kevin Appel. Photograph by Lou Mora