



Published by THE IRVINE MUSEUM | Summer 2016

From the President's Desk

above:

Jim McVicker, *Lavender Gladiolus and Sunflowers*
(detail), The Irvine Museum, Gift of the Artist

below:

Jesse Powell, *Spring Bloom, Point Lobos*, The Irvine
Museum, Gift of the Artist

below right:

John Cosby, *On the Edge*, The Irvine Museum, Gift of
the John and Susan Sanders Family Trust

Our exhibition for Summer, 2016, is entitled *A Summer Idyll: Picturesque Views of California*. We are showing a remarkable selection of works by both historic and contemporary landscape painters. In keeping with our past summer exhibitions of 2014 and 2015, the museum is recognizing that there is a thriving school of contemporary plein-air painters whose work compares favorably to the historic artists of California. These summer exhibitions have been well received by the community and we have had many visitors comment that they did not know that contemporary artists were still painting beautiful landscapes.

To that end, the museum broke tradition in 2014 by accepting a major work by one of our great contemporary painters, Jesse Powell (born 1977). *Spring Bloom, Pt. Lobos* was the first contemporary painting to be accepted into The Irvine Museum collection.

This past year, the museum accepted two important contemporary works for the collection: *On The Edge*, by John Cosby, Gift of the John and Susan Sanders Family Trust, and *Lavender Gladiolus and Sunflowers*, by Jim McVicker, Gift of the artist.





above:
Jim McVicker, *Lavender Gladiolus and Sunflowers*, The Irvine Museum, Gift of the Artist

below:
Arthur Mathews, *Monterey County Landscape*, The Irvine Museum, Gift of the Edward H. and Yvonne J. Boseker Collection

below right:
Detlef Sammann, *Crocker Grove, Del Monte Forest*, The Irvine Museum, Gift of the Edward H. and Yvonne J. Boseker Collection

In addition, the museum received two generous gifts of important historical works from the Edward H. and Yvonne J. Boseker Collection: Arthur Mathews (1860-1945), *Monterey County Landscape*, 1907 and Detlef Sammann (1857-1938), *Crocker Grove, Del Monte Forest*, 1915.

Arthur Frank Mathews was born on October 1, 1860, in Markesan, Wisconsin. His father was an architect and moved the family to San Francisco in 1866. Settling in Oakland, Mathews took art lessons while in high school and worked in his father's architectural office. In 1889, he returned to San Francisco, became an instructor, and in 1890 was the director of the School of Design for seventeen years. As such, he would have a considerable influence on an entire generation of Northern California painters.

Detlef Sammann was born in Schleswig, Germany and was apprenticed to a local painter at the age of fifteen, later working as a fresco painter in Dresden. In 1881, Sammann came to New York where he established himself as an interior decorator and muralist. He was chosen to decorate several rooms in the White House for President Benjamin Harrison (in office 1889-1893). For reasons of his daughter's health, his family moved to California in 1894. For about two years, he was active in San Diego and San Francisco but then moved to Pasadena in 1896. He joined the California Art Club in 1911 and exhibited at the Panama-California International Exposition in San Diego, in 1916, where he was awarded a Silver Medal. After several years in Monterey, he returned to Dresden in 1921, where he died on May 25, 1938.

We are grateful to these generous donors. With their thoughtful gifts, our collection is continually improving, enabling our museum to better serve our community.

I hope to see you at The Irvine Museum.

—James Irvine Swinden, President



From the Director

KEN AUSTER (1949–2016)

I first met Ken Auster in 1998. Up to that time, I had been a lifelong collector of historic California paintings and had not really considered works by contemporary plein air painters for my collection.



top: Ken in his studio

above: Ken Auster, *Above Laguna*, 2014, Estate of the Artist, courtesy of Paulette Auster

One day in 1999, Robin Fuld and I were discussing the contemporary plein air art community and she took me to the Laguna Art Museum to show me two paintings by Ken Auster that were on display in the back stairwell. I was immediately struck by these remarkable paintings. They were wonderful works, full of light, color and movement. It was clear that this artist knew what he was doing, knew how to do it, and most importantly knew why to do it. This was no ordinary painter, this was truly a master.

A few days later, I visited Ken and Paulette in their studio in Laguna Canyon. There, I saw paintings of traffic jams! In addition to beautiful landscapes and beach scenes, Ken was intent on painting what he saw in everyday life, and for those of us who live in California, we do indeed know traffic jams.

While many self-described “Impressionists” were painting elegant scenes of ladies with parasols in a carriage on the Champs-Élysées - scenes from the past century they had NEVER experienced - Ken painted the same concept, but as it appeared today. He painted people in cars trying to get home at the end of the day. He found beauty in a setting that most of us consider a predicament to be endured.

That day, I talked at length with Ken and he impressed me as a knowledgeable and deeply committed artist. He could talk about anything regarding art and he had a deep working knowledge of art history. Before I left, I purchased a striking painting entitled “Electric Avenue.” It shows Market Street in San Francisco during rush hour, with numerous cars and an electric trolley. He signed it, “To my friend Jean, 1999.”

Ken and I became friends and I saw him many times at the Crystal Cove Art Festivals, the Plein Air Painters of America Annuals, the Maui Plein Air Painting Invitationals, and the Laguna Plein Air Painting events. I have presented him with several painting awards over the years, including Best in Show at the 2013 Maui Invitational.

He was a wonderful person, a brilliant man and a great artist. May he rest in peace.

—Jean Stern, Executive Director, The Irvine Museum



Educational Outreach at The Irvine Museum

We have such a brief opportunity to pass on to our children our love for this Earth, and to tell our stories. These are the moments when the world is made whole. In my children's memories, the adventures we've had together in nature will always exist.—Richard Lou

During the past school year, The Irvine Museum has continued its educational outreach program through several channels.



from top:
Paul Grimm, *Nature's Symphony*
Edgar Payne, *The Sierra Divide*
Karl Yens, *Half-Dome, Yosemite*
Guy Rose, *Point Lobos*

For the second year, we were privileged to work once again with artist Jeff Sewell of *The Plein Air Project*, a joint effort of The Irvine Museum and the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. As part of the greater field-trip experience, Mr. Sewell visited each participating class at their school and gave them an introduction to plein air painting that included a demonstration of his painting technique. Soon after, the students came to The Irvine Museum to view paintings by early California Impressionists, including many of the greats, Granville Redmond, William Wendt, Donna Schuster, Marion Wachtel and Edgar Payne among others. With this inspiration, the class returned to school and went out into the field to paint their own creations.



In much the same way, the *Art Meets Science* program, begins the fieldtrip indoors at The Irvine Museum where the students are given a tour by our docents. The children learn how artists create plein air art as they observe historical landscape paintings of our Golden State. The “science” leg of the program begins when children re-board the bus and travel to the San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary just a few blocks away. While outdoors, they are given a hiking tour by Sea and Sage Audubon naturalists that encourage students to make careful observations and record these as scientific data before creating a group mural that will be taken back to their school for display. Ms. Trude Hurd, Project Director of Education at the Sea & Sage Audubon says “Through their exposure to the art exhibits, students discover that California’s vast landscapes can be both familiar and different from their own neighborhoods.” A fourth grade teacher from Tustin Unified School District remarked, “Although many of our children have visited the ocean and the mountains, most had never been to any sort of nature preserve. They were very curious about the purpose of such a place and came away with an appreciation of the need to care for ‘wild’ places in order to maintain nature’s diversity.” As the 2016 school year came to an end, we celebrated our ninth year of *Art Meets Science*, a successful and rewarding venture for all participants.



Our Spring 2016 exhibition, *The Nature of Water: Our Most Precious Resource*, became the perfect back drop for such observations not only for students on fieldtrips, but for many visiting adults that grew up without having to give much thought to the importance of conserving water, although we all know how precious a resource it is. The exhibit featured forty-six landscape paintings depicting water in all of its forms; clouds, rain, snow, glaciers, rivers, marshes and the sea, with a few written words on how we can all, through small changes, make a difference.—Dora James, *Curator of Education*

The Nature of Water: Our Most Precious Resource February 4th opening reception

The Nature of Water was an exhibition that served a dual purpose; it presented a selection of superb California landscape paintings and it brought to our museum visitors an awareness of one of California's historically scarce and precious resources, water.

Our opening reception, held on the evening of February 4th, was well attended by patrons and special guests, one of whom was Fabiola A. Lorente-Sorolla, great-granddaughter of Spanish Impressionist master Joaquin Sorolla. Fabiola, who lives in Madrid, Spain, was in southern California visiting her friend the artist and Founder of the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association Saim Caglayan.

from left:
Saim Caglayan, Fabiola Lorente-Sorolla,
Jeff Sewell and Sandy Sewell



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