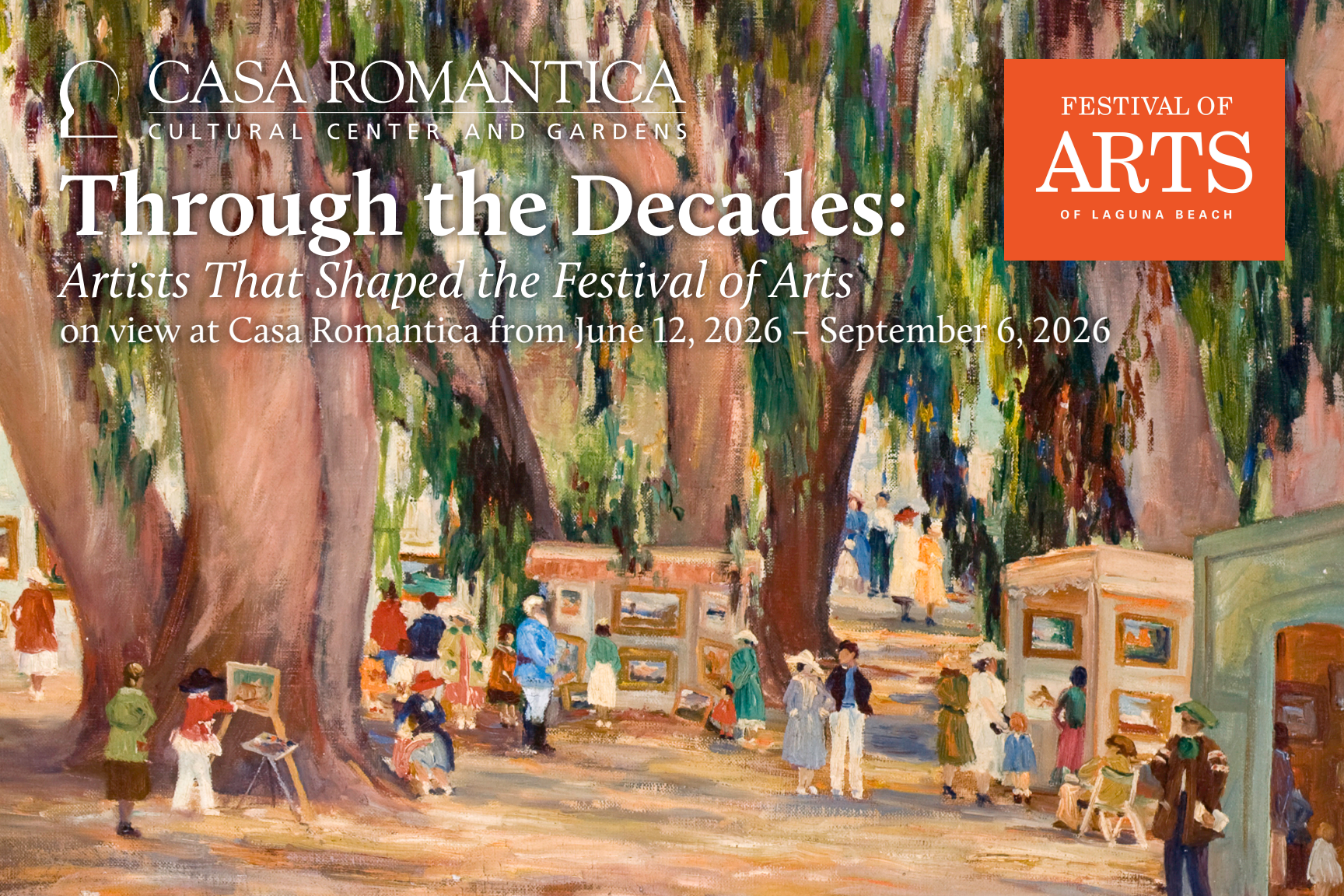




CASA ROMANTICA
CULTURAL CENTER AND GARDENS

Through the Decades:

Artists That Shaped the Festival of Arts

on view at Casa Romantica from June 12, 2026 – September 6, 2026

FESTIVAL OF
ARTS
OF LAGUNA BEACH



Letter from Casa Romantica

At Casa Romantica, we are honored to present this exhibition celebrating the enduring legacy of Laguna Beach's Festival of Arts and the vibrant artistic spirit that has long defined our coastal communities. For generations, the arts have shaped the cultural identity of our neighboring beach towns, inspiring connection, creativity, and a deep appreciation for California's unique landscape and history.

Drawn from the Festival of Arts Permanent Art Collection, this exhibition spans nearly a century of artistic achievement, from early California Impressionists to contemporary visionaries. Through paintings, ceramics, and sculpture, these works reflect the innovation and talent that helped establish Laguna Beach as one of the nation's premier arts destinations.

As stewards of history, art, and culture, Casa Romantica is proud to honor the artists and institutions whose creativity continues to enrich our community and preserve the artistic legacy of the California coast for future generations.

Cover Painting

Joane Cromwell (1895–1969), Festival in Laguna, c. 1935, Oil on Canvas, Lorna Mills Collection



Virginia Woolley (1884–1971), *Flower Stalls*, 1932, Oil on canvas, Lorna Mills Donation

Festival of Arts History

Founded in 1932 by John Hinchman, the Festival of Arts began as a grassroots effort by local artists with a shared desire to uplift their community during the troubling times of the Great Depression while also attracting visitors attending the Los Angeles Olympics that same year. For a single week that August, a modest outdoor exhibition was held in a parking lot near Hotel Laguna displaying paintings on fences, trees, and storefronts—quickly transforming the entire town into a vibrant, open-air gallery. The following year, the artists introduced a “living picture” show where volunteers posed as famous artworks, which would evolve alongside the Festival’s fine art show to become the celebrated Pageant of the Masters.

Over the course of more than nine decades, the Festival has become a cornerstone of Laguna Beach’s cultural identity, growing into a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting artists, awarding scholarships, and preserving the community’s rich artistic legacy. Located in Laguna Canyon since 1941, what began as a one-week exhibition now spans two months and features more than 100 Orange County artists, reflecting both its growth and its enduring commitment to the arts.

About This Exhibition and Festival Collection

The Festival of Arts Permanent Art Collection is an archive of Southern California art that documents Laguna Beach history and honors the legacy of Festival of Arts exhibitors. Dedicated to collecting, preserving, and exhibiting artworks significant to both the Festival's and the city's rich cultural heritage, the Collection serves as part of Laguna Beach's collective memory, capturing stories of the natural environment, the community, and the people who shape it.

Through the Decades: Artists That Shaped the Festival of Arts is a retrospective that illustrates the development of art in Southern California and puts into conversation artists from across temporal boundaries that are united by their dedication to their artistic community. Through the Decades aims to explore the identity of the Festival of Arts and of Laguna Beach by tracing its lineage through over a century of time.

Through partnership with Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens, the Festival of Arts celebrates the longevity of Southern California cultural institutions that have seen the origins of and grown alongside their respective cities.



Festival of Arts cover 1932

Artists that Shaped the Festival of Arts

Artwork and bios of the exhibition



Edgar Payne

Payne Lake, c. 1920

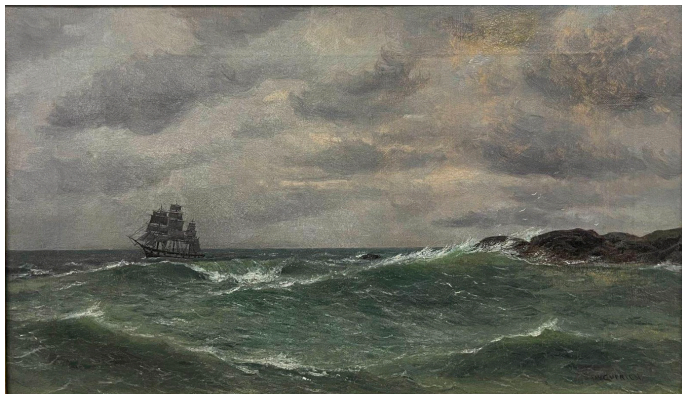
Oil on board

Lorna Mills Donation

Edgar Payne (1883–1947)

Beginning as a self-taught set painter, Edgar Payne made his way through the Midwest with his art, briefly studying at the Art Institute in Chicago. In Chicago, Payne married fellow artist Elise Palmer in 1912, whom he had previously met on a trip to San Francisco, and collaborated with her on several mural projects in the city, until making enough money to settle in Laguna Beach in 1918 where they would become founding members of the Laguna Beach Art Association. Both avid travelers, the Paynes traveled the Southwestern United States, Europe, and Canada, completing masterworks along their journey. Payne became known as one of California's leading landscape artists, earning the respect of peers and art critics alike for his Impressionistic landscapes painted in the plein-air style. Payne's reverence for nature and particular love of the Sierra Nevadas led Payne Lake to be named in his memory.

Ending a period of separation that began in 1932, Payne was diagnosed with cancer in 1946, which led to Elsie's return to their Los Angeles home, where she cared for him until his death the following year.



Frank Cuprien

Three Masted Schooner, c.1920

Oil on board

Lorna Mills Donation

Frank Cuprien (1871–1948)

Frank William Cuprien was a leading American plein-air painter of the California Impressionist movement, celebrated for his luminous marine scenes and opalescent seascapes. Born in Brooklyn, he studied at the Art Students League of New York and Cooper Union before continuing his training in Europe, including studies in Rome, Munich, and Paris.

Alongside painting, Cuprien was an accomplished musician, formally trained in piano and voice at conservatories in Munich and Leipzig. After teaching art at Baylor University in Texas, he moved to Laguna Beach in 1912, where he became a central figure in the local arts community. Known as the “Dean of Laguna Artists,” he helped establish the Laguna Beach Art Association and hosted artists and musical gatherings at his oceanfront studio, “The Viking.”

In 1948, Cuprien died after suffering a stroke. In his will, he left his estate to the Laguna Beach Art Association and requested that he be buried in his blue painter’s smock. The street Cuprien Way in Laguna Beach was later named in his honor.



Clarence Hinkle

Laguna Pier, c. 1922

Oil on board

Lorna Mills Donation

Clarence Hinkle (1880–1960)

Clarence Hinkle, born in Auburn, CA, grew up on a ranch outside Sacramento. Hinkle then embarked on a varied art education, studying at the Crocker Art Gallery in Sacramento, the Mark Hopkins Institute in San Francisco, the Art Students League in New York, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Art, and the Académie Colarossi and Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he was greatly influenced by Impressionism. He returned to the U.S. in 1912, exhibiting his works in San Francisco before moving to Southern California to teach at the Los Angeles School of Art & Design and the Chouinard Institute. In April 1922, Hinkle went to Laguna Beach to make arrangements for the summer outdoor classes that he would be teaching. By June, Hinkle and his wife were building a home in Arch Beach. He joined the Laguna Beach Art Association and became a very active member, serving on juries and on the association's board over the next fourteen years. In 1929, Fern Burford wrote a profile of Hinkle, saying that his home was a “rendezvous for many of the most famous painters of this part of the country,” a fact that attests to the degree of respect the artist commanded. Hinkle remained active as a painter and teacher in Laguna Beach, Los Angeles, and Santa Barbara where he died in 1960.



Virginia Woolley
Flower Stalls, 1932
Oil on canvas
Lorna Mills Donation

Virginia Woolley (1884–1971)

Best known for her role in shaping the Laguna Beach art community, Woolley was a California Impressionist, plein-air painter. Born in Selma, Alabama and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Woolley studied at the Art Institute in Chicago and pursued further training in Paris and a studio in New Orleans.

In 1923, Woolley settled in Laguna Beach. Though having never married and having no children, Woolley's legacy is cemented in Laguna Beach through her active participation in the local community, as she founded the Children's Art Section at the Sawdust Festival and taught outdoor classes for adults and offering complimentary sessions for children at the Laguna Beach Art Gallery, now known as the Laguna Art Museum. Her dedication to art education led to the development of "Free-for-All" classes at the Festival of Arts, which has continued in the popular Art Center and Workshops.

Woolley co-founded the Festival of Arts in 1932 and remained an active participant until her passing in 1971. Flower Stalls is one of her earliest works and was sold at the inaugural Festival of Arts in 1932.



John H. Hinchman (1884–1971)

Need Bio

John H. Hinchman

The Bathers, Laguna Beach, c. 1932

Oil on board

2024 Purchase



Joane Cromwell

Festival in Laguna, c. 1935

Oil on Canvas

Lorna Mills Collection

Joane Cromwell (1895–1969)

Catherine Joane Strode, who later adopted the pseudonym Joane Cromwell, pursued her passion for painting and illustration at the Art Institute of Chicago. Cromwell divided her time between California and Illinois for much of her life. After her first marriage ended in divorce, she joined her mother in Southern California, where she developed a deep appreciation for the state's coastline and desert areas with a particular fascination for sycamore and eucalyptus trees and desert landscapes. In 1922, she made her permanent home in Laguna Beach, choosing to settle atop Temple Hills, which offered her a stunning view of both the ocean and the surrounding landscapes. Cromwell married five times, moving around Southern California where she pursued mural painting, including the famous Santa Anita Race Track and Hollywood Park Race Track murals. Cromwell was a well-known figure in Laguna Beach, and was a charter member of Laguna Beach Art Association and the Festival of Arts. Cromwell exhibited at the Festival of Arts from 1936-1969.



Benjamin C. Brown
The Headland, c. 1940
Oil on Canvas
Lorna Mills Donation

Benjamin C. Brown (1865–1942)

Benjamin C. Brown was born in Arkansas and studied at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, and later, in Paris at the Académie Julian. Upon completing his studies, Brown returned to the United States and was active in the American South, specializing in portraits and still lifes. One of the first Impressionist painters in Los Angeles, Brown first visited the area in 1886 on a sketching trip. After moving to Pasadena in 1896, Brown quickly saw a new opportunity and changed his artistic focus to landscape painting. Along with his brother Howell, he founded the Print Makers Society of California, which sponsored annual international print exhibitions for many years, and was active in many of the developing art societies in Southern California. Brown is best remembered for his Impressionist renderings of the Sierra Mountains and poppy-filled spring meadows. Benjamin Brown died in Pasadena in 1942.



Joan Cromwell (1884–1971)

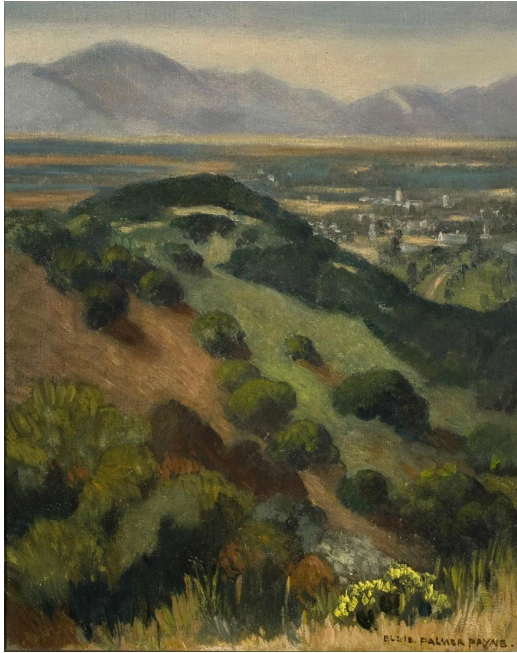
Neptune's Might, c. 1940

Oil on panel

Lorna Mills Donation

Joane Cromwell (1895–1969)

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Elsie Palmer Payne (1884–1971)

Landscape, c. 1950

Oil on canvas

Lorna Mills Donation

Elsie Palmer Payne (1884–1971)

Born in San Antonio, Payne attended Best Art School in San Francisco and established herself as a successful working artist as early as 1904. In 1910, Payne relocated to Chicago where she re-encountered fellow artist Edgar Payne, whom she had previously met in San Francisco and would later become her husband in 1912. Although they continued separate careers, Payne's awareness of her social position as well as Edgar's own "Victorian values" compelled her shift to gouache as oils were considered masculine and were Edgar's medium of choice, as well as her intentional abandonment of his preferred subject matter. After the birth of their daughter, Payne and her family settled in Laguna Beach in 1918 and became founding members of the Laguna Beach Art Association.

Following the couple's separation in 1932, Payne became an active member of several organizations such as the Women Painters of the West, developed a new style of oil painting, and began to teach art classes, opening the Elsie Palmer Payne Art School in 1936. Payne would later reconnect with her estranged husband following his cancer diagnosis in 1946, becoming his caretaker until his passing in 1947. In addition to preserving Edgar's memory and work, Payne continued her own career until 1969, finding interest in Social Realism, depicting black models before the Civil Rights Movement.



Louise Leyden (1898–1978)

Born and educated in Fresno, Leyden relocated to Southern California in 1929. An active member of the local community, Leyden painted alongside artists such as Thomas Hunt, William Griffith, and Elanor Colburn, and dedicated herself to painting the eucalyptus trees that were abundant in the Southlands. Leyden also served two terms as director of the Laguna Beach Art Gallery, now the Laguna Art Museum, and was a Fellow at the Institute of Arts & Letters. Leyden was also a supporter of the Pageant of the Masters, introducing new neighbors to the event in her later years, and exhibited at the Festival of Arts for over 25 years.

In addition to being a patron of the arts, Leyden was also an environmentalist and spearheaded the preservation of a beach park, which was later renamed Louise Leyden Park in her honor. The park remains public, situated at the West end of the Dana Bluffs Community overlooking Doheny State Beach in Dana Point.

Louise Leyden (1898–1978)

Emerald Bay, c. 1950

Oil on canvas

Lorna Mills Donation



Roy Ropp (1888–1974)

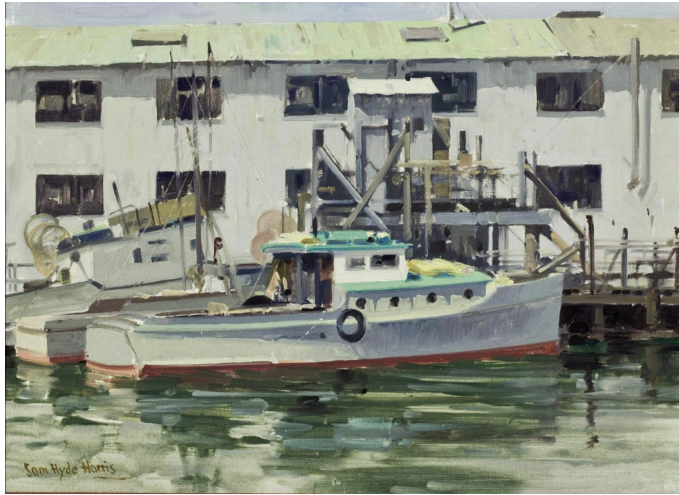
Composite Sketch/Pageant Bethlehem, 1952

Oil on canvas

Lorna Mills Donation

Roy Ropp (1888–1974)

Roy Ropp was born in Butler County, KS, in 1888. Settling in Laguna Beach in 1921, he became a successful builder, and insurance and real estate agent. In his leisure, he painted marine scenes and desert landscapes, and was involved in the local arts organizations. Ropp became involved with the Pageant in 1934 after he expressed his dissatisfaction with the poor quality of the production; the Festival's board responded to his frank criticism by placing him in charge of the Pageant. He renamed it the "Pageant of the Masters" and, with significant assistance from his wife, Marie, he organized a high-quality and well-received production in the summer of 1935. Building upon this initial success, the Ropps continued to refine and improve the Pageant through its 1941 production, which was enhanced by a land donation from the James Irvine Trust of a natural bowl at the entrance into the canyon, later named the Irvine Bowl. Because of increasing personal friction between the Ropps and the Festival's board, Roy Ropp came back only once after the wartime pause to direct the Pageant, in 1950, though he continued to show his paintings at the Festival of Arts. In 1961 he retired to the Yucca Valley, north of Palm Springs, where he taught art classes until his death. Ropp died in 1974, but today is still remembered as the "Father of the Pageant".



Sam Hyde Harris (1889–1977)

Newport Cannery, c. 1960

Oil on canvas

Lorna Mills Donation

Sam Hyde Harris (1889–1977)

Sam Hyde Harris came to Los Angeles from Middlesex, England with his family in 1904 at age 15. With a talent for commercial art, he set to work creating posters for clients like the Southern Pacific, Union Pacific, and Santa Fe railroads, which today are collector's items. After an extensive trip to European museums, he married Phoebe Mulholland in 1913. Turning to teaching painting at the onset of the Depression, Harris conducted classes at Chouinard and the Businessmen's Art Institute of Los Angeles. Disparaging of the modern art movements in the 1940s, Harris formed the Sanity in Art Society (later Artists of the Southwest). After divorcing and remarrying, Harris moved to Alhambra, into a studio with a great view of the San Gabriel Mountains that has retained the nickname Artists' Alley, or the "Little Bohemia". Harris focused on desert landscapes, disliking the idea of creating art to please the public—even as he won consistent critical praise. An active member of the Laguna Beach Art Association, the California Art Club, and various other Southland art organizations, Harris enjoyed renewed interest in his art beginning in the 1970s, through his death in 1977.



Roger Kuntz (1926–1975)

Roger Kuntz, a native of San Antonio, Texas, was an exceptionally talented artist associated with the Laguna Beach art colony in the mid-twentieth century. Following his Army service in World War II, Kuntz earned an undergraduate degree from Pomona College and an MFA from Claremont Graduate School. After receiving critical acclaim for his 1959 “Freeway Series” and earning numerous national awards, Kuntz moved to Laguna Beach and began teaching at the Laguna College of Art & Design in 1963. In Laguna, Kuntz found subjects for his paintings everywhere he turned, communicating both the simplicity and complexity of the world around him in the harmony of light and shadow he became well known for. Kuntz pursued many interests in his life: painter, sculptor, fisherman, craftsman, teacher, and jazz musician. In his later years, Kuntz became an active member of the Laguna Art Museum, an instructor at the Laguna College of Art and Design, and an exhibiting artist at the Festival of Arts. Kuntz’s creative life was turned upside down when he learned of a cancer diagnosis in his forties, coupled with family turmoil and divorce. In 1975 at 49 years of age, he died from suicide, ending a painful period of depression and physical deterioration that had led to paralysis.

Roger Kuntz (1926–1975)

The Captain's House, c. 1960

Oil on canvas

1983 FOA Purchase Award



Paul Blaine Henrie (1932–1999)

Born Blaine McKinley Henrie in Tampa, Florida, Henrie started his art career during his teenage years. After serving in the Marine Corps, Henrie worked as a muralist in various large cities before making his way to California in the mid-1950s. After exploring several coastal cities, he eventually settled in Laguna Beach and set up a studio near Main Beach. He quickly became a colorful figure in the region and was skilled in both watercolor and acrylic painting. Henrie was an extremely prolific painter, and exhibited at the Festival of Arts in the late 1960s.

Paul Blaine Henrie (1932–1999)

Cottage Restaurant, 1972

Acrylic on canvas

2013 Mazza Donation



Richard Bunkall (1953–1999)

Richard Bunkhall grew up in Los Angeles and New York City, where he was drawn to the aesthetic of building forms. He began sketching from perches high above New York and painting his interpretations. Bunkhall was known for his large and compelling works that appreciated the magnitude and spirituality that inspired these structures. Bunkhall saw these constructions as an example of the human desire to create something more permanent than themselves, painting this grandiose idea into his art. For his work, he was recognized with two grants from the National Endowment of the Arts, and exhibited in Los Angeles and New York. Bunkhall also taught painting at his alma mater, the Art Center College of Design, where he was a well-respected professor. In 1994, he was diagnosed with ALS. He continued painting through his struggles with the disease until his passing in 1999. Bunkhall exhibited at the Festival of Arts from 1976-1982.

Richard Bunkall (1953–1999)

Near Belmont Pier, 1979

Offset Lithograph on paper

Lorna Mills Donation



Jack Dudley (1918–1996)

Jack Dudley was well-known for his depictions of landscapes, architecture, people, and wildlife, created using oil, acrylic, and watercolor. After serving overseas in the Second World War, he first spent a number of years in architectural drafting. He then studied Painting at the Art Center, embracing a modern approach to underpainting and emerging in the 1960s as an established fine artist. Dudley developed a unique “broken color” technique of oil painting, which involved using vibrant bits of pure color visible throughout the tonal patterns of his work. In later years, he incorporated modern, fast-drying paint to accelerate the drying process. His success brought recognition and awards until his death by cancer in 1996. His innovative painting technique and diverse subject matter continue to inspire and influence artists today.

Jack Dudley (1918–1996)

Balloon Vendor, c. 1980

Oil on panel

1980 FOA Purchase Award



Scott Moore

Scott Moore, born in Los Angeles, grew up in Oklahoma. After returning to Los Angeles to attend California State University, Long Beach, his art education was interrupted by the draft in 1969. However, Moore continued practicing his craft as an artist and designer in the Marine Corps. After returning from the Marines, he briefly worked in commercial printing before electing to start his own graphic design business while pursuing painting full time. Moore found professional success after leaving graphic design and taking a workshop at John Pike's Watercolor School. Since then, Moore has taught watercolors at the college level, been inducted into the National Watercolor Society, and served in multiple roles at the Festival of Arts as board President and President of the FOA Foundation. Though retired from the Festival as an Exhibitor, Moore has continued his association with the Festival as a volunteer and juror.

Scott Moore

Pigeon Man, Monterey, 1985

Watercolor on paper

2015 Heffernan Family Donation



Pat Sparkuhl

Fragments, (1997 - 1998)

Mixed media

2020 Artist Donation

Pat Sparkuhl

Having moved to Laguna Beach from Los Angeles in 1960, vibrant mixed media sculptor Pat Sparkuhl has dedicated his life to art education and expression. After his family's move, Sparkuhl, an avid swimmer, soon discovered the unique beauty and self-expression that surfing offered. He developed his own style and pursued the sport passionately, but eventually realized the challenges of making a career in surfing and transitioned to his other passion, art. With his focus firmly set on art, he explored academic and real-world opportunities related to art-making. Sparkuhl earned a graduate degree in art from Cal State Fullerton and has since pursued every academic and real-world opportunity related to art-making, dedicating himself to the professional creation of art, focusing on the concerns and relationships to social issues relevant to the time. Sparkuhl has been affiliated with the Festival of Arts for over forty years, established the long-running volunteer Art Docent program, and acted as curator and director of the Festival's Permanent Art Collection before retiring in 2022.



Monica Dunham

Monica Dunham has a rich history with the Festival of Arts. An accomplished ceramist and artist on the grounds, Monica introduced the popular Paint-a-Pot to the Festival and started the first raku demo booth. Her work, as well as that of her students, has been shown nationally as well as having been featured in numerous publications. Along with Festival exhibitor Pat Sparkuhl, she developed an informal docents program, and began offering their own guided tours of the grounds that set the stage for today's more formal docent tours at the Festival. Dunham retired from the Festival in 2012, and now works out of her studio in Northern California.

Monica Dunham

Untitled, 1998

Raku ceramic

1998 FOA Purchase Award



Fred Stodder

Fred Stodder, a native of Southern California, started studying ceramics when he was 16 years old. Stodder earned a scholarship from the Festival of Arts at age 19 and pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine. His ceramic art is regularly exhibited in galleries and museums throughout the country. He is the recipient of numerous awards, appears in many important collections, and featured in national arts publications. Stodder draws inspiration from architecture, minimalist painting, and jazz music, which is reflected in his distinctive ceramic forms characterized by sharp edges, vivid hues, and razor-sharp glaze lines. Fred has exhibited at the Festival of Arts since 1980.

Fred Stodder

Untitled (Red Fade), 2003

Ceramic

2003 FOA Purchase Award



Mike Tauber

Mike Tauber is a professional artist, working in paint, ceramic tile, and cement relief. Now based in Laguna Beach, Tauber earned his BFA from San Diego State University. Much of his work is by commission, architectural in scale, designed to be site-specific, and permanent. Noted for his award-winning Festival of Mosaics program, his focus is on engaging citizens in the creation of public murals. Recent painting commissions include murals at Wilshire Grand Center in Los Angeles, character designs and murals for Geppetto's Toy Stores throughout San Diego County, and a vintage-style travel post card of Laguna Beach, recreated and performed on stage at the 2022 Pageant of the Masters. Tauber has exhibited at Laguna Art Museum, Fullerton Museum Center, Palm Springs Art Museum, and Yosemite Museum, and his work is in public art collections of numerous cities and corporations.

Mike Tauber

Vernal Falls, 2016

Ceramic tile

2016 FOA Purchase Award



Jessica deStefano

Beginning as a pastel portraitist in her high school years, DeStefano's creative spark and business sense fuel her practice. Transitioning from 2D media into sculpture in the mid-60s, DeStefano's affinity for the miniature revealed itself as she developed a small practice sculpting clay heads and selling them as beads. Increasing her scale to roughly eighteen inches for her professional career as a college graduate, DeStefano's work quickly became collectible in the 1980s, most notably for figurines of mermaids and fairies.

Jessica deStefano

Freedom of Choice, c. 2019

Cast resin

Artist Donation



Russell Jacques

Born in Vermont, Russell Jacques was classically trained at Boston University with a degree in fine art. After spending 16 years in the public school system, he launched his full time career as a sculptor and painter and relocated to California. Quite unexpectedly, he met Albert Reinhardt, a traditional blacksmith who taught him forge welding. Jacques took to it immediately, and put painting aside for a while to devote himself to working in metals. First working in assemblages, he later moved to create curvilinear, abstract polished stainless steel and bronze forms for which he is now known. However, he never lost his love for painting, and showed both during his tenure at the Festival of Arts and his later stint as a gallery owner in Oregon. His sculptures and abstract paintings can be found anywhere in Canada and the United States, as well as in New Zealand and Mexico.

Russell Jacques

Untitled (Red to Gray), 2023

Acrylic on Canvas

2024 Michael Jacques Donation



Michael Jacques

Born and raised in Vermont, Michael Jacques earned his bachelor's degree from Boston University's School of Fine Art. After serving as an illustrator in the United States Army for two years, he returned to New England and obtained his master's degree from the Hartford Art School. Jacques taught at Emmanuel College in Boston before relocating to the Laguna Beach area. A master printmaker, painter, and sculptor, his works are in the permanent collections of many major institutions including the Museum of Fine Art, in Boston, the United States House of Representatives, the Museum of American Art, and the Smithsonian Institution's National Collection of American Art. Jacques has won a variety of awards for his art including a prestigious American Book Award Nomination for Book Illustration. He regularly exhibited his paintings at the annual Laguna Beach Festival of the Arts, and for many years taught at the Laguna College of Art & Design.

Michael Jacques

Coaches, 2024

Acrylic on canvas

2024 Michael Jacques Donation



Michael Obermeyer
Emerald Sparkle, 2025
Oil on Canvas
2025 FOA Purchase Award

Michael Obermeyer

A native of Southern California, Michael Obermeyer received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration at California State University, Long Beach. A twenty year career in illustration followed, including work for Disney Studios, the Anaheim Angels, McDonnell Douglas, Coldwell Banker, and the United States Air Force. Due to his illustration background, he is equally comfortable with the landscape and the figure, showcasing both in his work. Now a professional painter, his paintings can be found in the U.S. Air Force Historical Art Collection in the Smithsonian Institute and the Pentagon. Michael has been the recipient of many awards from art associations across the country. Michael is the President of the prestigious California Art Club, and is a Signature Member of the California Art Club and the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. Currently, his paintings are showing at galleries across California, and he maintains a studio in Laguna Beach, California.

Letter from the President of Festival of Arts

On behalf of the Festival of Arts, it is my pleasure to share *Through the Decades: Artists That Shaped the Festival of Arts*, presented in partnership with Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens. We are deeply grateful for this collaboration, which not only highlights the strength of our shared cultural institutions, but also brings greater awareness to the Festival's Permanent Art Collection and the remarkable artists whose work has helped define Laguna Beach's creative legacy.

This exhibition offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on the evolution of art in our community—honoring the artists who have shaped the Festival over generations while connecting their contributions to the present day. It is through these works that our history is preserved and our identity continues to grow.

We invite you to further experience this enduring tradition by visiting the Festival of Arts Fine Art Show this summer, running July 7 through September 3. There, you can meet today's exhibiting artists and see firsthand how this rich artistic heritage continues to thrive.

Thank you for celebrating the arts with us.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David J. Perry". The script is fluid and cursive.

David J. Perry
President, Festival of Arts



Festival of Arts grounds today



CASA ROMANTICA CULTURAL CENTER & GARDENS

415 Avenida Granada

San Clemente, CA 92672

Federal Tax ID: #33-0944424

PUBLIC HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Thursday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Friday-Saturday: 10 AM – 2 PM

TICKETS

General Admission: \$8.00

Ages 12 and Under: FREE

Active Military with Military ID: FREE

Casa Romantica Members: FREE

MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission of Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens is to provide cultural programs for all ages, backgrounds, and ethnicities with a special emphasis in celebrating and inspiring the artistic, musical, historical, literary, and horticultural aspects of California. We strive to serve our greater community and beyond.



CASA ROMANTICA
CULTURAL CENTER AND GARDENS