

MEDIA RELEASE

First Glimpse: Introducing The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

**Curated by Kevin Appel, Stephen Barker,
and Cécile Whiting**

On View: September 29, 2018 – January 5, 2019

Opening Reception: September 29, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.



IRVINE, Calif. (August 24, 2018) – The UCI Institute and Museum for California Art will host a ‘*First Glimpse*’ of The Buck Collection – an exquisite but long hidden collection of California art – at the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts.

“The *First Glimpse* exhibition will unveil this astonishing collection of California art and shed light on its mysterious collector, Gerald Buck,” said Stephen Barker, Executive Director of the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art. “This is also the first step in a larger project – creating a world-class institution and museum to study and enjoy the rich expanse of California art.”

For more than twenty years, Orange County developer Gerald Buck engaged in an unexpected pastime: building an unparalleled collection of artworks in a wide variety of genres and media. At his death, Mr. Buck passed the collection to UCI with the main desire was that the works be studied and appreciated for their many values. *First Glimpse* will bring just over fifty of those works out of seclusion—works by California artists from Richard Diebenkorn to Ed Kienholz to Wayne Thiebaud to Mary Corse and Joan Brown.

The exhibition will represent California artists as central in launching new movements, altering historical courses, and following powerful individual vision. Presenting Abstract Classicism, Expressionism, Assemblage, California Funk art, Light and Space work, and those artists that fall outside of definition, the exhibit will detail the area as a crucible of innovation and creativity.

First Glimpse captures the breadth of Buck’s collecting decisions, offering a first taste of the larger collection that will be revealed over time as a central part of UCI’s emerging Institute and Museum for California Art.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of symposia and talks by living artists in the collection, other artists, and arts scholars and researchers. An accompanying exhibition catalogue with essays by the exhibition curators, Cécile Whiting, Kevin Appel, and Stephen Barker, will be available in early December.

UCI IMCA

The UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

About the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

The UCI Institute and Museum for California Art (UCI IMCA) is home to the world's most comprehensive collection of California art, thanks to foundational gifts of The Irvine Museum Collection of over 1,200 California Impressionist paintings and The Buck Collection of more than 3,200 works of California modern art. The University is poised to construct a permanent museum and research institute on the UC Irvine campus—fulfilling the vision of campus architect William Pereira's original 1962 campus blueprint—which will be a global magnet for the exhibition and study of California art and its social and cultural framework. In the meantime, UCI IMCA is hosting exhibitions at the Irvine Museum Collection gallery in Irvine, California and at the UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts. For information, please visit: imca.uci.edu/exhibitions.

About UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

As UCI's creative laboratory, the Claire Trevor School of the Arts explores and presents the arts as the essence of human experience and expression, through art forms ranging from the most traditional to the radically new. The international faculty works across a wide variety of disciplines, partnering with others across the campus. National-ranked programs in art, dance, drama, and music begin with training but end in original invention. Students come to UCI to learn to be citizen-artists, to sharpen their skills and talents, and to become the molders and leaders of world culture. For more information, please visit www.arts.uci.edu.

About the University Art Galleries (UAG)

The University Art Galleries are committed to promoting an inter-generational dialogue between 60s/70s neo-avant-garde art and contemporary visual culture. Accordingly, the curatorial mission is to keep an eye on the modernist past while promoting the most innovative aesthetic and political debates of the post-modern present. From this vantage, the projects commissioned provoke intelligent debate on the subject of art in its most expansive poetic definition. For more information, uag.arts.uci.edu

About the University of California, Irvine

Founded in 1965, UCI is the youngest member of the prestigious Association of American Universities. The campus has produced three Nobel laureates and is known for its academic achievement, premier research, innovation and anteater mascot. Led by Chancellor Howard Gillman, UCI has more than 30,000 students and offers 192 degree programs. It's located in one of the world's safest and most economically vibrant communities and is Orange County's second-largest employer, contributing \$5 billion annually to the local economy. For more on UCI, visit www.uci.edu.

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UCI IMCA

The UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

ABOUT THE CURATORS

Kevin Appel Bio:

Kevin Appel received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Parsons School of Design in New York in 1990 and his Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1995. The artist is the recipient of the 2011 California Community Foundation Fellowship for Visual Artists and the Citibank Private Bank Emerging Artist Award, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Appel has had numerous solo exhibitions both nationally and internationally, which include Christopher Grimes Gallery, Santa Monica, CA; "Paintings," Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects, Culver City, CA; Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, NY; Wilkinson Gallery, London, England; The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, among others.

Group exhibitions include "Endless House: Intersections of Art and Architecture," Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; "XL: Large-Scale Paintings from the Permanent Collection," The Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center, Vassar, Poughkeepsie, NY; "Drawing Now: Eight Propositions," The Museum of Modern Art, Painting at the Edge of the World, Walker Qtt Center, Minneapolis, MN, among others.

Appel is a Professor at UC Irvine and lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Stephen Barker Bio:

Dean of the Claire Trevor School of the Arts and Director of the UCI Museum and Institute for California Art, Stephen Barker has been Chair of Drama, Chair of Art, Faculty Assistant to the Chancellor, and Director of the UC-wide Education Abroad Program in France. He was previously a professional actor, director, dancer, choreographer, musician, and advertising executive. He now works internationally in critical theory and aesthetics. He has written and edited books and articles on numerous artists and philosophers, and has recently translated several volumes by French philosophers for Stanford University Press. Barker is a founder of the journal *Derrida Today* and is on the faculty of the London Graduate School. He lives in Irvine and Provence with his wife Michelle, a retired clinical psychologist.

Cécile Whiting Bio:

Cécile Whiting is Chancellor's Professor in the Department of Art History and the Graduate Program in Visual Studies at UCI. She specializes in the history of American art with a focus on the mid-twentieth century about which she has published three books: *Antifascism in American Art* (Yale, 1989), *A Taste for Pop: Pop Art, Gender, and Consumer Culture* (Cambridge, 1997), and *Pop L.A.: Art and the City in the 1960s* (University of California, 2006). *Pop L.A.* was awarded the 2009 Charles C. Eldredge Prize from the Smithsonian Institution for Distinguished Scholarship in American Art. This fall she will receive the Lawrence A. Fleischman Award for Scholarly Excellence in the Field of American Art History from the Archives of American Art.

University of California, Irvine UCI Claire Trevor School of the Arts

University Art Gallery and Contemporary Art Gallery | 712 Arts Plaza, Irvine, CA 92697-2775
imca@uci.edu | imca.uci.edu | Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Thursdays until 8:00 p.m.

FACT SHEET

First Glimpse: Introducing The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

Exhibition Dates: September 29, 2018 – January 5, 2019
Curated by Kevin Appel, Stephen Barker, and Cécile Whiting

Events and Programming:

September 14 – 28, 2018	Press Tours (by appointment only)
September 15, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Arts Community / Media Event Contemporary Arts Center Gallery
September 29, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.	Opening Reception (open to the public)
October 4 – January 5 <i>Thursdays, 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.</i> <i>Saturdays, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.</i>	Docent-Led Tours Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 29, Dec. 6, 13 Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, 15, Jan. 5
Thursday, October 25, 2018	An Artist's Glimpse with Peter Alexander & Chuck Arnoldi 6:00 p.m. Talk 7:00 p.m. Private Reception Winifred Smith Hall
Tuesday, November 13, 2018	An Artist's Glimpse with Billy Al Bengston 6:00 p.m. Talk 7:00 p.m. Private Reception Winifred Smith Hall
Thursday, December 6, 2018	An Artist's Glimpse with Helen Pashgian 5:30 p.m. Talk 6:30 p.m. Private Reception Winifred Smith Hall

Gallery Locations: Contemporary Arts Center Gallery & University Art Gallery | 712 Arts Plaza, Claire Trevor School of the Arts

Description: *First Glimpse: Introducing The Buck Collection* is part of the emerging Institute and Museum for California Art. Acquired by Orange County developer and eclectic collector Gerald Buck, the 3,300 artworks by California artists span a broad range of genres and media. The exhibition, held at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, reveals just over fifty works of Abstract Classicism, Expressionism, Assemblage, California Funk, Light and Space, and those defying definition. The exhibition presents California as a crucible of creativity and its artists as pioneering new movements, altering historical courses, and following powerful individual vision.

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Thursdays until 8:00 p.m. | Free and open to the public.

Parking: UC Irvine [Mesa Parking Structure](#), 4002 Mesa Rd., Irvine, CA 92617

More Info: <https://imca.uci.edu/firstglimpse/>

Note to editors: Selected high-resolution images for publicity only may be downloaded from [Google Drive](#) --- <http://bit.ly/2K3olQr>

UCI IMCA

The UCI Institute and Museum for California Art

PRESS IMAGE KEY

***First Glimpse: Introducing The Buck Collection
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(Drive: <http://bit.ly/2K3olQr>)

Images:



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1. Richard Diebenkorn, *Albuquerque #9*, 1952. Oil on canvas, 68 3/4 x 60 in. ©2018, Richard Diebenkorn Foundation. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
2. Peter Alexander, *Thrasher*, 1992. Oil on canvas, 48 x 84 in. ©2018, Peter Alexander. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
3. Joan Brown, *People and Eye Trees in the Park in Madrid*, 1961. Oil on canvas, 72 1/8 x 96 in. ©8-3-2018 Noel Neri. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
4. George Herms, "ME," 1962. Assemblage, 19 1/4 x 13 1/2 x 3 3/4 in. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
5. Henry Villierme, *Coming In*, 1992. Acrylic on Arches paper. 23 x 30 1/2 in. ©8/06/2018, HENRY VILLIERME. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
6. Frederick Hammersley, *Growing thing & seed*, 1954. Oil on canvas, 30 x 24 in. Copyright Frederick Hammersley Foundation. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.
7. Lee Mullican, *Oblique of Agawam*, 1950. Oil on canvas, 50 1/2 x 40 in. The Buck Collection at the UCI Institute and Museum for California Art.

Photos by Fredrik Nilsen.

Images approved for publication in conjunction with the promotion of *First Glimpse: Introducing The Buck Collection* only. Reproductions must include the full caption information, and images may not be cropped or altered in any way or superimposed with printing.