



SEPTEMBER 7–NOVEMBER 24

A Fresh Perspective on the Paintings of Phil Dike

Phil Dike, *Holiday*, 1931, Oil on canvas.
Collection of Mike and Sue Verbal

Phil Dike: A Birds-eye View will present a fresh look at the work of one of Claremont's most renowned painters from the last century. An influential and admired teacher to hundreds of students, Dike was best known for his coastal scenes and his raw confident brushstrokes.

The exhibition, generously sponsored by Gould Asset Management LLC, will present significant works from his favored high point of view as well as his abstract approach to California scenes. *A Birds-eye View* will open with a reception on Saturday, September 7 from 6-9 pm, and remain on view through November 24, 2024.

The Exhibition will feature four seminal works (among others) by Phil Dike that evoke a high vantage point perspective of an object or location, creating the illusion of looking down from the viewpoint

(continued on page 3)

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CLAREMONT LEWIS MUSEUM OF ART

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The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is a non-profit, tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Our exhibitions and programs are supported by public and private organizations as well as many individual donors, members, and volunteers.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

GALA 2024 *Reflections*

We are thrilled to invite members and friends to the Claremont Depot lawn for our annual Fall Gala. This year's Gala, "Reflections," is inspired by the work of Phil Dike, one of Claremont's most prominent legacy artists and one of California's most famous watercolorists. Dike will be celebrated with the naming of Gallery 2 in his honor. Guests will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres on the Depot Plaza, peruse art in the Live Auction, followed by a dinner catered by Chef Henry of Spaggi's.

Additionally, there will be an exciting Silent Auction with over 40 items available at 2024clma.afrogs.org. The site will be live online from noon on Friday, September 13, and will end at noon on Sunday, September 22. Viewing of the silent auction starts at noon on Monday, September 9. At the Gala live auction, bid on a tour and lunch at Hauser & Wirth with Museum Director Martin Betz, or a stay in a San Francisco condo, as well as artworks, many by local creators.

Invitations will be mailed in mid-August. Watch for more information.



SATURDAY, AUGUST 24

Local Artists Take Over the Museum for One Day

All artists are invited to exhibit at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in a one-day pop-up show 4-9 pm on August 24. All are welcome! With

hundreds of artists expected to participate, *Free 4 All* is a commitment to unfiltered community building. The Museum would not exist without the support of a robust artist community. This exhibition is designed to foster that community by bringing together people of diverse backgrounds, generations, and talents.

There will be no fees and no gatekeepers to decide who is allowed to show their work. Artists will be invited to deliver ready-to-hang work on Friday, August 23. For more details go to clmoa.org.

Join us in celebrating the amazing cultural bounty that surrounds us with live music, refreshments on the Depot Plaza and Curious Publishing, who will be showcasing art and zines from local artists in the Baldonado Atrium.



The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is supported by the LA County Department of Arts and Culture as part of Creative Recovery LA, an initiative funded by the American Rescue Plan.

CLMA Grows in Management and Governance

Over the past year, the Museum has expanded its programming and staffing. Museum Associate Xochilt Vargas now serves as our Social Media Coordinator and Thea Whitaker is our Collection Database Archivist and Programs Associate. Elaine Turner has been honored with Emerita status after serving as Board President for 5 years. We are pleased to welcome Mary Livesay as our newest board member.



Mary Livesay

Mary Livesay has been the Foundation Relations Director at Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles since January 2021 where she oversees institutional fundraising. Prior to Homeboy Industries Mary spent over a decade in the nonprofit world most recently working at Scripps College. Mary is humbled and honored to join the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art board of directors, which she has enjoyed being a member of and seeing grow over the years. Mary hails from Ann Arbor, Michigan and is a proud graduate of the University of Michigan. In her free time she enjoys hiking with her husband, walks with her dog, and spending time practicing the art of calligraphy.

Doug Pearsall Named Public Art Committee Chair

The Museum is pleased to announce that Doug Pearsall, a longtime Museum Associate, has been selected to serve as Claremont's Public Art Committee Chair.

A native Angelino who grew up in South Central LA, Doug considers his work at the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art as part of a lifelong path. He sees the Museum as a special place where he feels a real sense of belonging. Doug has attended several art schools including classes at Otis College. He is also a traveler, having visited Africa multiple times.

Doug describes himself as a multi/mixed-media artist with an interest in music. His art has been exhibited at various places including the California African American Museum, City of Los Angeles Municipal Art Gallery-Barnsdall Park, and other galleries. In 2018, he was one of sixteen artists selected to create work for the LA County Fair's Millard Sheets Gallery exhibit "Alt 66." His installation touched on his personal history, titled "In the Pursuit of Dreams," it depicted an imaginary journey of a family from the rural South to Los Angeles.

He is passionate about art and customer service. "When I'm on the floor, I love building relationships with the work on display. The best way to learn new things about art is to engage and encourage visitors to express their responses to what they see."



Phil Dike, c.1960, Scripps College Archive

Phil Dike *(continued from page 1)*

of a flying bird. The images convey a sense of observing from above, creating a feeling of divine observation and distance from the subject matter.

Phil Dike was born and raised in Redlands, California. He attended the Chouinard School of Art in Los Angeles and traveled to New York to study at the Art Students League in 1929. After returning to Los Angeles, he taught at Chouinard before traveling to Europe to study in France at the American Academy of Fontainebleau. He resumed teaching at Chouinard in 1931 and served as a color coordinator and story designer for Walt Disney Studios for ten years.

Dike was a prominent figure in the California regionalist movement of the 1930-40s. He was a close friend of the artist Rex Brandt, and together they established the Brandt-Dike Summer School in Corona del Mar. In 1950, Dike became a faculty member at Scripps College and Claremont Graduate University. Over time, his artistic style shifted from realism to a more abstract approach. By the 1960s, his work, while never truly non-representational, tended towards total abstraction, conveying a strong sense of mysticism. Additionally, Dike was a poet who lived by the mantra: "Whenever art becomes predictable, it is something apart from art." Following his retirement in 1970, he lived in both Claremont and Cambria until his passing in 1990.

Lucky 13: Project ARTstART Makes a Lasting Impact

Project ARTstART has just completed its thirteenth year, having hit its stride as an integral part of the Museum's commitment to community arts education long ago. Since September 2023, ARTstARTers have delivered 56 AfterARTS workshops to Claremont's after-school student populations, as well as planned and presented three session arts units for all upper grade students as part of our Core program. We are proud of our sustained impact on CUSD students, and look forward to delivering programs based on local exhibitions in the coming academic year.

ARTSTART BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023-24, ARTstART engaged with and served:

- 6** college student Project Assistant mentors
- 82** Claremont High School students
- 870** elementary students from five Claremont elementary schools
- 1,245** elementary students AfterARTS workshops at seven Claremont schools



Top: ARTstARTers gather with their college mentors and Director Rich Deely for a final celebration. The year's activities included museum visits, classroom teaching, art-making and exhibition design.



Maya Winnick: Nine Years with ARTstART

When I first met Maya as a 9th grade high school student and newly recruited member of Project ARTstART, I knew that she was special. Eager, confident, and quick to make friends, Maya impressed her ARTstART peers, and threw herself into the work of making art with younger students. Active all four years in high school, Maya routinely amassed the largest total hours volunteered. Following graduation from high school, Maya remained in the area, and applied to be a Project Assistant intern, to coach new ARTstART students as they planned their lessons and activities for elementary students.

Along the way, she decided that she wanted to become a teacher, and pursued a major in early childhood education at California State University at Los Angeles. After three years as an intern, we hired her to be Project Associate, the arts educator who schedules and coordinates our AfterARTs series at all our school sites, as well as the ArtStation drop-in art-making series. Needless to say, she has excelled, as a mentor, teacher, and creative person whose enthusiasm is infectious.

Maya likes to joke that I've been the person who has known her the longest, (with the exception of her family!) As she steps away from ARTstART to complete her student teaching so that she is certified to run her own classroom, all our ARTstART team (ARTstARTers, Project team, and Museum staff) wish her the best and know that whatever school hires her will be greatly enriched by the association.

– Rich Deely, Project ARTstART Director



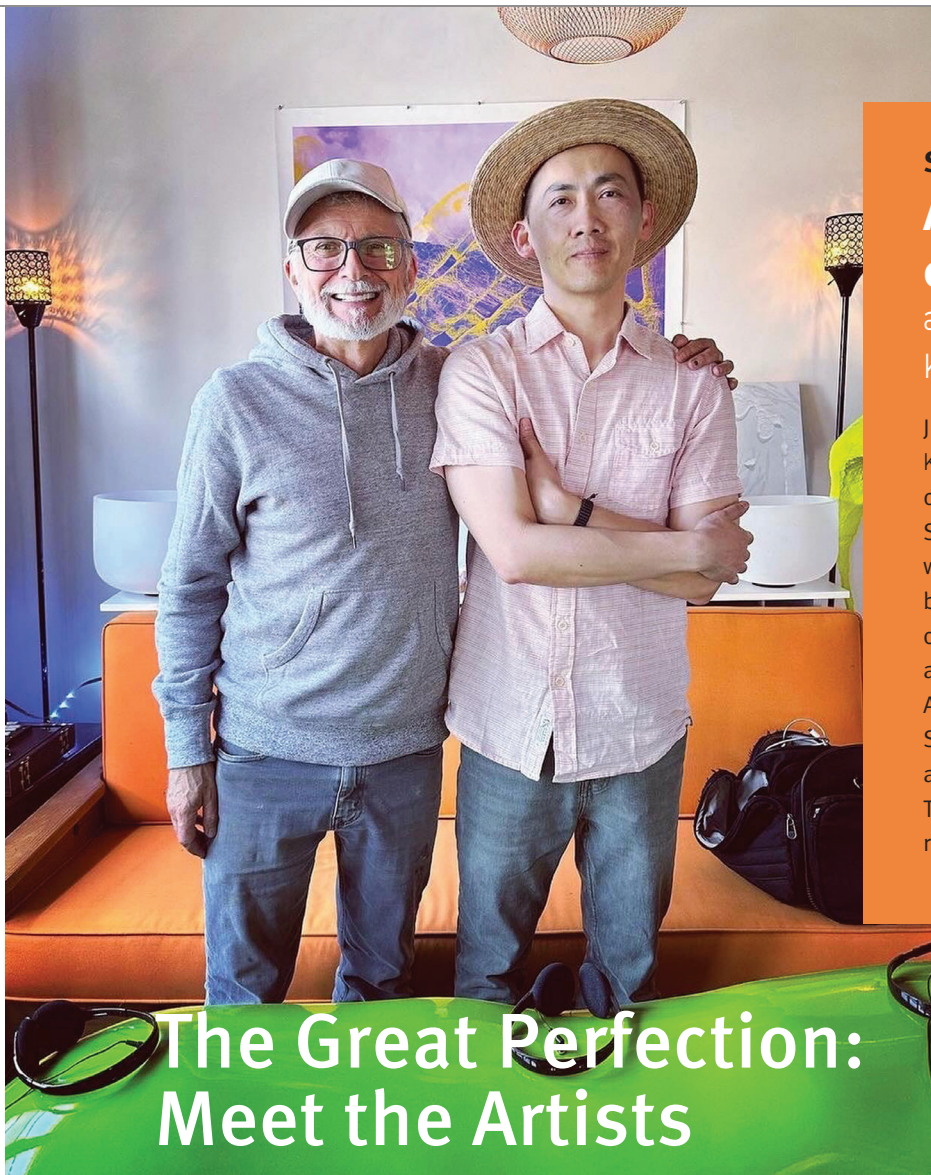
In 2016 Maya Winnick was part of the ARTstART team presenting a drop-in art project at the annual Pie Festival.

Partners and Supporters

Project ARTstART is produced solely by the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in partnership with the Claremont Unified School District (CUSD) and provides programming for students from eight participating schools: Chaparral, Condit, Mountain View, Oakmont, Sumner/Danbury, Sycamore, and Vista del Valle elementary schools, along with Claremont High School.

The program is funded by generous donations from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Department of Arts and Culture; Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts; Children's Foundation of America; Claremont Kiwanis Foundation; Scripps Fine Arts Foundation; an allotment from the CUSD Arts Grant, Claremont Rotary; as well as CLMA Board members and many dedicated community donors.

Additional in-kind support and partner programming was provided by American Museum of Ceramic Art; Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College; Claremont Heritage; The Claremont Colleges Services; dA Center for the Arts, Pomona; The Peggy Phelps Gallery at Claremont Graduate University Studio Arts; Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College; The Sam and Alfreda Maloof Foundation for Arts and Crafts, and The Susan Sontag Center for Creative Collaboration 'The HIVE' at Pomona College.



The Great Perfection: Meet the Artists

Our current exhibition, *The Great Perfection*, explores two artists' diverse approaches to the aesthetic expression of nondual consciousness. The meditative work of Charles Long and Khang Bảo Nguyễn will be on view through August 18, sponsored in part by Claremont Lincoln University. Learn more about the artists:

Charles Long is a sculptor living and working in Pomona, California. Known for his efforts to re-examine the tropes of modernist sculpture within his wildly distinctive and speculative practice, his recent work has taken on a psychedelic and metaphysical approach in his search to answer the question: 'what is sacred art?' Works cast in amalgamations of bronze, aluminum, brass, nickel, mica

and gypsum reveal a creative alchemy born out of a commitment to altered states of consciousness and a faith in the eternal presence, the ground out of which the illusion of material reality appears.

Born in 1958 in Long Branch, New Jersey, Long received a BFA from Philadelphia College of Art and earned an MFA from Yale University in 1988. He was the recipient of the 2008 Award of Merit Medal for Sculpture from the American Academy of Arts and Letters in New York. Long's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions worldwide and featured in exhibitions at the UCLA Hammer Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. He is currently a Professor of Art at the University of California, Riverside.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10

Aesthetic Meditation on Nondual Being:

a discussion with Charles Long &
Khang Bảo Nguyễn

Join us in dialogue with Charles Long and Khang Bảo Nguyễn, featured artists in our current exhibition *The Great Perfection* on Saturday, August 10, 6-7:30 pm. The program will begin with a brief meditation, followed by slideshows by the artists and a discussion of the intersection of nondual philosophies and creative practice. Exhibition Curator and Associate Director of Exhibitions & Collections Seth Pringle will moderate the discussion with audience participation highly encouraged. The program will be followed by light refreshments in the Baldonado Atrium.

Khang Bảo Nguyễn is a painter and scholar of philosophy and religion. He creates abstract paintings that combine diagrammatic stability with effervescent luminosity. His heavily layered surfaces offer a space for spiritual buoyancy and balance where the symmetry of mandalas combine with the weightlessness of outer space to prompt self-reflection. The viewing of Nguyễn's paintings is an inherently meditative act, where visual abstraction offers an opportunity for pre-conceptual.

Nguyễn immigrated to the US after the fall of Vietnam to communism in the 1970s. He holds a MA and is a PhD candidate, both in philosophy and religious thought at Claremont Graduate University. His spiritual understanding and aesthetic visual vocabulary developed over the past decade of studies with teacher Madelon Wheeler-Gibb at Spacious Mind. His work has been included in numerous exhibitions throughout Southern California including Transcendent at Louis Stern Fine Arts last year. Khang is currently represented by the Wonzimer gallery in Los Angeles with a solo exhibition scheduled for November 2024.



“Art Night Out” Series Brings Community Together

The March “Art Night Out” was a delightful evening with woodworker Lauren Verdugo as craft lovers spent the evening sketching, and selecting wood shapes to assemble, sand, and oil. Each participant took home their own unique small chair. In May, guests participated in a guided meditation and sound bath session with Charlotte Cousins of Buddhamouse Emporium followed by a tour of *The Great Perfection* exhibition and an art workshop exploring ‘flow state’ led by artist Charles Long.

Our first “Sip & Paint” celebrated the Summer Solstice in June. Participants enjoyed a lovely evening on the Plaza painting the historic Claremont Depot building. The self-guided activity was led by Martin Betz our Executive Director and Thea Whittaker, Collection Database Archivist and Programs Associate. The joy of art and painting with others is truly inspiring!



Clockwise from top: Artist Elisa Arancibia shows off her Depot painting. Council member Jennifer Stark, right, collages a frame for her *Courting Chair* photo. Cheryl Nespor had fun making a tiny chair. The solstice was celebrated with a Sip & Paint evening.



Amy Santoferraro to Inhabit CLMA’s Window Galleries with the Fruits of Her Labor

Mixed media ceramicist Amy Santoferraro will create a site-specific installation that will be viewable 24/7 in the Museum’s Window Galleries beginning August 24. Santoferraro combines hand-made ceramics with found objects to explore the idea of collections as repositories of meaning, sentiment and personal histories. This installation’s fruit-based theme will engage with the Historic Train Depot’s role in the citrus industry. Learn more about Amy at amysantoferraro.com.

CLAREMONT LEWIS

MUSEUM OF ART

P.O. Box 1136, Claremont, CA 91711

Summer Speaker Series



Get Modern with Wendy!

Join us for the final two lectures in our speaker series “Revolutions & Revelations: Avant-Garde Art of the 20th Century” on Thursdays, 6-7 pm at the Museum. Art historian **Wendy Slatkin, Ph. D** will explore Bauhaus, Surrealism, and American Modernism on July 25, and the Mexican Mural Movement on August 1.



CLMA CALENDAR

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

Speaker Series with Wendy Slatkins
Thursdays, July 25, August 1, 6-7 pm

**Discussion with Charles Long &
Khang Bảo Nguyễn**
Saturday, August 10

Free 4 All
Saturday, August 24, 4-9 pm

Phil Dike Opening Reception
Saturday, September 7, 6-9 pm

Relections Gala
Saturday, September 21, 5:30 pm

FestivArts at Padua Hills
Sunday, November 3, 11 am- 4 pm

Garcia Collection Opening Reception
Saturday, December 7, 6-9 pm

Above: Phil Dike, View of Los Angeles (Chavez Ravine), 1944, Oil on canvas. The E. Gene Crain Collection