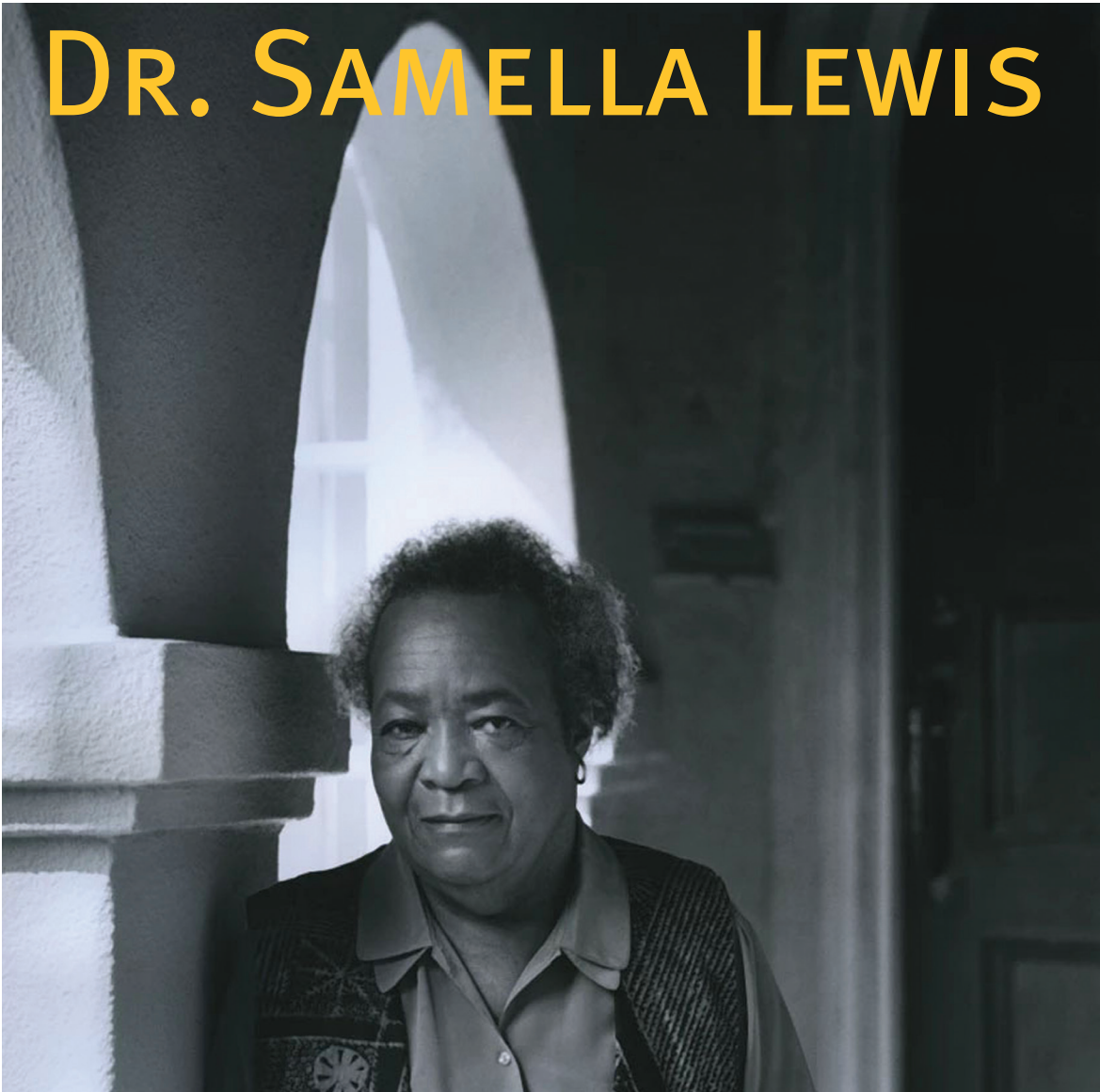


AUGUST 15-NOVEMBER 15, 2026

EXHIBITION ILLUMINATES THE LEGACY OF



DR. SAMELLA LEWIS

Samella Lewis at
Scripps College in 1995.
Photograph by Robert
Hale provided by Louis
Stern Fine Arts

A seminal figure in 20th-century American art, Samella Sanders Lewis (1923-2022) was a trailblazing art history professor at Scripps College and considered the first American woman polymath of African descent to receive a PhD in the history of art. Her extraordinary life and global legacy celebrate and perpetuate the visual arts not only of African Americans and Africans (*continued on page 2*)

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Samella Lewis (continued from page 1)



Samella Lewis, *Black Sun*, 1970. linoleum cut

but also of Asians, Asian Americans, Austronesians, and other indigenous peoples within and neighboring the Pacific Rim and Western Hemisphere.

The exhibition ***Samella! Black as Lacquer and Iron***, curated by her Scripps student Francine Farr, illuminates Dr. Lewis' legacy as an Asianist and Africanist art historian, educator, philanthropist, and artist. The exhibition, sponsored by Gould Asset Management LLC, will open with a reception on Saturday, August 15 from 5-8 pm, and remain on view through November 15, 2026.

An elegy to Dr. Lewis and her leadership style of quiet action, openness, humility, and collaboration, the exhibition juxtaposes Asian, African, and indigenous art alongside Lewis' early drawings and prints, in addition to artworks by Alison Saar, Howard Smith, Richard Petterson, and quiltmaker Alita Aldridge. This is a heartfelt homage to Dr. Lewis as a Scripps College art history professor and an acknowledgment of her living legacy as mentor, publisher, author, activist, innovator, organizer, gallerist, museologist, cultural ambassador, Fulbright fellow to Taiwan, wife, mother, and enlightened person.

Born and bred in New Orleans, Dr. Lewis met her most important mentor Elizabeth Catlett, at Dillard University. She graduated in studio art at Hampton University, then went on to earn an MFA and PhD in the History of Art at Ohio State University. Grounding her work through affiliations with numerous venerable institutions, she wove together narratives to speak truth to power in building community and addressing the struggle for equality for Blacks, Asians, diasporans, and indigenous peoples.

A world leader of public education, cultural preservation, institution-building, and unassuming continuous artmaking, she became the first tenured African American professor at Scripps College in 1969 and retired in 1984. Dr. Lewis authored the textbook *African American Art and Artists* (2003), founded the *International Review of African American Art* (1975), and co-founded the Museum of African American Art, Los Angeles (1976) and the National Conference of Artists (1959), the oldest extant congress of African American artists.

Curator Francine Farr studied with Dr. Lewis as an art history and studio art major at Scripps College. Like Lewis, Farr is a multilingual Nichiren Shoshu Buddhist, an Asianist and Africanist museum specialist, art historian and educator. She has worked at the Brooklyn Museum of Art and other museums in the Boston and Washington DC areas, Europe and Haiti; taught at Georgetown University, Montgomery College; and published multiple conference papers.

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.



The Claremont Lewis Museum of Art is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors through the Department of Arts and Culture.

GALA 2026 A DECADE IN THE DEPOT



Save the Date!
SEPT 19 2026

We hope you'll join us on Saturday, September 19, for our Fall Gala celebrating 10 years in the historic Claremont Depot! View the exhibition, *Samella! Black as Lacquer and Iron*, celebrating the legacy of pioneering artist and art historian Samella Lewis. Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres on the Depot Plaza with live music while perusing art and experiences offered in our Live Auction. Dinner al fresco follows on the lawn, catered by Chef Henry of Spaggi's.

Since renovating the vacant Depot in 2016, CLMA has grown into a vibrant cultural anchor for our community—presenting thought-provoking exhibitions, honoring our local cultural heritage, offering educational programs for all ages, and activating a beloved historic space. It's been an honor to breathe new life into this important piece of

architectural and civic history. We're grateful to the City of Claremont for giving us the opportunity to keep this history alive while creating new memories and experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds. We've come a long way in the past decade and look forward to celebrating with our community of supporters who make it all possible.

Invitations will be mailed in August and **sponsorship opportunities are available now!** Visit clmoa.org/fallgala2026 to sponsor and ensure CLMA can continue to thrive!

SPONSORSHIP DEADLINE
for full publicity coverage for
all levels is **August 14.**



SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

Free 4 All Returns for Local Artists to Take Over the Museum

The popular *Free 4 All* event will return on Saturday, August 1, 1-8 pm. Hundreds of artists are again expected to participate in this annual one-day pop-up show with no fees to exhibit, no gatekeepers to decide who is allowed to show their work, and free admission for all.

Free 4 All is a commitment to unfiltered community building. Artists of all ages are invited to deliver ready-to-hang work to the Museum on Friday, July 31, 7 am-4 pm. Only one artwork per artist

will be accepted. Work must be able to hang from one nail on the wall (no pedestal or floor displays). Size is limited to 24" in any direction and must be appropriate for a family-friendly audience.

CLMA will celebrate the amazing cultural bounty that surrounds us with participatory art projects, and live music by The Kamran Curlin Trio, Home Again Home Again, and Coup Deville. Refreshments will be available from partners Pizza N Such and Claremont Craft Ales.

**FREE
4 ALL**

The Museum would not exist without the support of a robust artist community. This exhibition, generously sponsored by WFIC, is designed to foster that community by bringing together people of diverse backgrounds, generations, and talents.

Project ARTstART: 15 Years of Inspiring and Empowering Local Youth



Top: Skye Varanont guides Vista del Valle students in an art project in February. Bottom: ARTstARTers install a display of student work in the Ginger Elliott Center in May.

We believe art is an integral ingredient in the lives of young people and CLMA is committed to creating opportunities for all kids to feel a sense of belonging and ownership of their local culture. That is why we created Project ARTstART, CLMA's signature art education program, which recently completed its 15th year!

ARTstART was conceived of and built by Project Director Rich Deely to serve multiple age levels through an innovative youth-teaching-youth model. Under the guidance of eight college-age Project Associates, 85 Claremont High School students (ARTstARTers) learn teaching methods and develop lessons for 4-6th graders based on exhibitions on view at CLMA. This year, we added Condit and Chaparral Elementary Schools and are proud to report that we now serve all 7 public elementary schools in Claremont!

Combining art-making lessons with museum field trips, ARTstART demonstrates that art is for everyone. The program does more than offer teacher training for our ARTstARTers. They learn project management, critical and abstract thinking, public speaking, and teamwork. These skills will serve their career prospects in any field, not just the arts.

The school year culminated in a beautiful exhibition of the work made by our elementary students, curated and installed by our ARTstARTers. Displayed at Claremont Heritage's Ginger Elliott Exhibition Center, the exhibition was open to the public and featured tours led by ARTstARTers.

For many of our ARTstARTers, participation is a multi-year commitment that plays a defining role in their high school experience. We're sad to say goodbye to our graduating seniors, but look forward to hearing about their forthcoming adventures and accomplishments as they take what they've learned in ARTstART to make the world a better place.

ARTSTART BY THE NUMBERS

In 2025-26, ARTstART engaged with and served:

- 8** Project College student assistant mentors
- 85** High School students
- 982** Elementary students
- 1,307** Elementary AfterARTS participants

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Mimi Quaranta

What did you enjoy most about ARTstART?

I enjoyed teaching a lot! I'm going to college to major in education and ARTstART helped me learn how to create lesson plans and talk in front of kids and other ARTstARTers. It was also so fun being able to make art with all my best friends every Friday!

What are you going to miss about ARTstART?

I'm going to miss the enrichment trips and my underclassmen friends!

What advice would you give to new

ARTstARTers? I would say to show up to the meetings and speak up more, even if it's scary at first.



Maureen Canedo

What did you enjoy most about ARTstART?

I enjoyed seeing how the kids had fun with the activity we planned. Each was so creative in how they decided to make their project.

What are you going to miss about ARTstART?

Having an excuse to do a craft every week and thinking about how amazing our craft will be.

What advice would you give to new

ARTstARTers? Try and talk to everyone and always participate!

**Support Project
ARTstART! Scan the code
and donate today!**



PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

Project ARTstART is produced solely by the Claremont Lewis Museum of Art in partnership with the Claremont Unified School District. The program is funded by generous donations from the Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts; City of Claremont (Community-Based Organizations Grant); Claremont Sunrise Rotary; Claremont Kiwanis Foundation; Rotary Club of Claremont; Scripps Fine

Arts Foundation; as well as CLMA Board members and many dedicated community donors.

Partner programming for 2025-26 was provided by American Museum of Ceramic Art (AMOCA); Benton Museum of Art at Pomona College; California Botanic Garden; Claremont Heritage; dA Center for the Arts; Ruth Chandler Williamson Gallery at Scripps College; and the Susan Sontag Center for Creative Collaboration 'The HIVE' at Pomona College.



Thursdays Get Creative with “Art Night Out” Series



Every third Thursday the Museum hosts the popular monthly “Art Night Out.” This spring artist Mike McLain led guests in a project documenting their thoughts on a fabric square and crafting a collage centered on messages reflecting their perspective on the world today. Sean Tao of Sherwood Florist taught participants to construct a unique piece of wearable art using fresh, seasonal blooms and professional floral techniques. Artist Julie Stokes provided a step-by-step guide to create a vibrant, tropical masterpiece in an exclusive evening of creativity and refreshing pours.

Our next “Art Night Out” on July 16 will be fun for the whole family! A tie dye workshop on the front lawn will include a special limited edition *Free 4 All* t-shirt, snacks, and sodas. Buy your tickets on Eventbrite.

Participants in the “Sips & Scenery” workshop show off their tropical masterpieces produced under the direction of artist Julie Stokes, far left.

Summer at the Museum

NEW Pay
What You Wish
Admission

**JULY
AUG
SEPT**

This summer, CLMA is offering **Pay What You Wish** admission. As we work towards creating a more welcoming and inclusive space where everyone can experience the power of art, we are asking visitors to set their own admission price. We hope this flexible pricing will enable more people to enjoy our exhibitions. Please encourage your friends to visit CLMA. And, of course, members and children are always free!

Charles Phoenix Welcomes Museum Members to his Americana Wonderland

Museum members kicked off the summer with an artful evening at the Claremont home of Charles Phoenix. Guests enjoyed '50s era tidbits and tiki-inspired jazz in the tropical garden, posed for photos with Charles's classic car collection, and toured his ranch-style home filled with playful mid-century memorabilia.



Charles Phoenix poses with Bernadette Kendall and Karen Neiuber next to one of his vintage cars at his home in Claremont.

Julian Lucas Exhibition Explores the Concepts of Home and the American Dream

As the United States celebrates its 250th anniversary, Claremont-based photographer Julian Lucas explores the concept of home as a powerful source of cultural and psychological centering, and the contrasting forces of displacement and loss in the exhibition *Julian Lucas: Happiness Pursued. Paradise Lost*. The opening reception in April was a joyous gathering as members of St Stephen Missionary Baptist Church choir brought their music into the galleries and the Solid Ray Woods band played on the Depot Plaza. In June, Director Seth Pringle led a conversation with panelists Julian Lucas, Lydia Sohn, Susan McWilliams Barndt, and Kikesa Kimbwal DeRobles. The exhibition will remain on view through July 26.



View video of a conversation with Julian Lucas

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CLMA CALENDAR 2026

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events

Julian Lucas: Happiness Pursued. Paradise Lost.

Through July 26, 2026

Art Night Out: Living Palette

Thursday, July 16, 6-9 pm

Friday Nights Live at the Depot

Every Friday, 6-9 pm through October 16

Free 4 All

Saturday, August 1, 1-8 pm

Samella! Black as Lacquer and Iron
Opening Reception

Saturday, August 15, 5-8 pm

Fall Gala

Saturday, September 19, 5:30 pm

Padua Hills FestivArts

Sunday, November 1, 11 am- 4 pm

