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Bowers Museum Hosts One of Nation's Most Anticipated Annual Showcases of Contemporary-Traditional Art

June 29, 2022 (Santa Ana, California) – The California Art Club (CAC) will present its *111th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition* at the Bowers Museum from July 17 to August 21, marking the first time that these two organizations have collaborated to display one of the nation's most anticipated annual showcases of contemporary-traditional art. The upcoming exhibition will spotlight nearly 250 paintings and sculptures, created using time-honored art techniques employed by the pioneering artists who founded the California Art Club in 1909, including many who were also active with the Laguna Art Colony from 1918 to 1935. Their collective works influenced California Impressionism – the artistic movement defined as purely Californian.

To encourage exhibiting artists to create their most important works, the *111th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition* is unthemed, providing creative freedom to select subjects that personally resonate with them, including imagery that may be found beyond the borders of the Golden State. As a result, the exhibition provides a revealing exploration of issues facing the global community, ranging from environmental preservation to social interests and cultural perspectives.


“The California Art Club is honored to present our 'Annual Gold Medal Exhibition' at the Bowers Museum for the first time, as both organizations embrace world cultures and recognize how the sharing of aspects of life around the globe allows us to appreciate the richness of diversity and helps us relate to each other,” says Michael Obermeyer, the prominent Orange County-based artist who serves as the organization's president.



Blood, Brian_China Cove, Point Lobos_
oil on canvas_30x24

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The featured artwork, juried by a panel of art scholars and artists, includes not only pristine landscapes and tranquil seascapes that CAC artists have been rendering for more than a century, but also evocative figures and sublime still lifes that encompass both classical compositions as well as the unexpected objects. As a result, the myriad of representational works on view will allow viewers to both reconnect with memories of beloved people and places and discover intriguing aspects of daily life in communities near and far.

The 187 exhibiting artists include both nationally renowned painters and sculptors as well as up-and-coming artists and include painters Peter Adams, Brian Blood, Warren Chang, John Cosby, Jean LeGassick, Mian Situ, and William Stout, as well as sculptors Béla Bácsi, Brittany Ryan, and Christopher Slatoff.



Situ, Mian_Goose Caretaker_Oil on linen_32x26

A full slate of educational programs will be offered during the exhibition, including an opening weekend lecture titled “Painting California: A Century of Artistic Excellence” which will allow allowing art enthusiasts to meet the noted art historian Jean Stern; “Meet the Artists” spotlight talks every Saturday; a figurative demonstration with both a painter and sculptor; and a “Paint/Sculpt-Out” on closing day. Specific program information, including ticket information, is posted at bowers.org.

All works are available for acquisition and a portion of the proceeds benefit the California Art Club’s educational programming. For more information about the exhibition, [visit bowers.org/gold](http://visit.bowers.org/gold) or californiaartclub.org/goldmedal. Presenting Sponsors of the *111th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition* include Alyce Williamson and an anonymous donor. Digital images of artwork in the exhibition are available upon request.

KEY INFORMATION FOR THE *111TH ANNUAL GOLD MEDAL EXHIBITION*

- Exhibition Dates: July 17 to August 21, 2022
- Opening Reception – Exhibition Preview & Artists’ Gala– Saturday, July 16, 5 p.m. – Tickets to the Artists’ Gala are \$125 in advance, \$150 at the door, and include a copy of the four-color exhibition catalogue. To purchase tickets or for additional information, visit californiaartclub.org/goldmedal or call (626) 583-9009.
- Location: Bowers Museum, 2002 North Main Street, Santa Ana, CA 92706. (714) 567-3628
Hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tuesday – Sunday
- Tickets: *111th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition* is included in General Admission: \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (ages 62+), students (ages 12+), and free for Bowers members, children under 12, and Santa Ana residents on Sundays with proof of address.

About California Art Club

The California Art Club (californiaartclub.org), established in 1909 by early California Impressionists or plein air painters, is recognized as one of the oldest, largest and most active leading professional art organizations in the world. The mission of the Club is to promote traditional fine arts in the fields of painting, drawing and sculpture; produce and promote art exhibitions that foster greater understanding of traditional art heritage and California history; and furnish educational opportunities in the fine arts. Members include nationally renowned artists, art students, art scholars and patrons, and leading collectors and members of the business community to interject different perspectives into the ongoing dialogue about traditional fine arts.

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