



Isaac Frazee's Paint Box. UCI Libraries Special Collections and Archives. Isaac Frazee Family Papers [MS-R022].

The history of the Laguna art colony is an important part of the cultural legacy of Laguna Beach and California. Interest in California Impressionism remains significant due, in large part, to the efforts of local art museums and other cultural heritage institutions.

For the full exhibit checklist with annotations, online exhibits, and past exhibits, please see:

exhibits.lib.uci.edu.

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FALL EXHIBIT | LANGSON LIBRARY

Open Air & Light

ART IN LAGUNA BEACH, 1906-1941



Laguna Beach Coast, 1911. Edgar Payne. Courtesy of the Peter and Gail Ochs Collection.

OCTOBER 2013 - APRIL 2014

MURIEL ANSLEY REYNOLDS EXHIBIT GALLERY

Welcome to the UC Irvine Libraries' fall exhibit, *Open Air & Light: Art in Laguna Beach 1906-1941*. *Open Air & Light* explores the rich early history of Laguna's development into an art colony and how broad support from the community played a significant role in its evolution. On display are archival and manuscript collections from the Libraries' Special Collections and Archives. Images of paintings and other archival material in the exhibit are courtesy of the Bowers Museum, The Irvine Museum, the Laguna Art



James Irvine Swinden

Museum, the Laguna Beach Historical Society, and the Peter and Gail Ochs Collection. Special thanks to the Isaac and Bettie Frazee family for their donation of the Frazee Family Papers to the Libraries as a result of this exhibit.

We are delighted to have James Irvine Swinden, President of The Irvine Museum, as the speaker for our opening event on October 23, 2013.

I hope you enjoy the exhibit and return to view others in the future.

Lorelei Tanji
University Librarian

was formed. It became apparent almost immediately that the Art Association would quickly outgrow the Art Gallery space and that a new, larger, more permanent space would be required. The successful effort at locating land and funding involved the artists and the entire Laguna Beach community. The opening of the new gallery took place in February 1929. Fundraising for the new gallery and to support



"Rendering of Proposed Final Gallery Design." Myron Hunt and C.C. Chambers. Image courtesy of the Laguna Art Museum.

Laguna Beach has one of the most beautiful shorelines in California, if not the world. It is



Karl Yens - America the Beautiful

situated on a large sandy cove that is surrounded to the north and south by high bluffs of immense beauty, and to the east by striking hills with canyons

between. All of that is complimented by the unique light in Laguna, a light that enhances the scenery tremendously.

The landscape painters who first came here around 1900 had found paradise, as it was a perfect environment for impressionist painting. They came back often and many established

their studios and homes in Laguna. Artists like Edgar Payne, Elsie Payne, William Wendt, Frank Cuprien, Anna Hills, Guy Rose, Granville Redmond, George Gardner Symons, Jack Wilkinson Smith, Isaac Frazee and Norman St. Clair were moved by the beauty and the spirituality of the natural surroundings and their art reflects this.



"Interior of the Art Gallery, with the Initial Show." Photographer unknown, 1918. Image courtesy of the Laguna Art Museum.

As the Laguna artists gained fame in the early decades of the twentieth century, they organized an active Art Gallery in 1918 and, shortly after, the Laguna Beach Art Association

the Art Association involved numerous strategies, including pageant plays, which were the precursors of the Pageant of the Masters. Most of the funds that kept the Association



Program from the "6th Annual Festival of arts." July 30 to August 7, 1937

going through the early 1930s were generated by auctions of donated paintings. Through the second half of the 1930s, money was generated by the annual, week-long Festival of the Arts, which was established in 1932. Nine Festival of the Arts were produced in various locations around Laguna Beach

between 1932 and 1940. In 1941, the Irvine Bowl was built and became the permanent location of the Pageant of the Masters and the Festival of the Arts.