

CROCKER **art museum**

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Expanded Crocker Art Museum Opens October 10, 2010

**125,000-Square-Foot Teel Family Pavilion Designed
by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects
Triples Museum's Size and Vastly Enhances Public Programming**

**Wayne Thiebaud Paints New Work as 125th Birthday Gift for the Crocker,
This and Other Gifts Catalyzed by Expansion on View for the First Time**

**Opening Day Celebration from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Features
Free Public Performances and Activities for Visitors of All Ages**

Sacramento, CA – September 28, 2010 – The Crocker Art Museum opens its 125,000-square-foot expansion designed by Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects (GSAA) on October 10, 2010. The new Teel Family Pavilion triples the size of the Museum, allowing it to exhibit significantly more of its growing collection, increasing its ability to originate and present traveling exhibitions and educational programs, and enhancing its role as a cultural resource for California and the state's many visitors. One of GSAA co-founder Charles Gwathmey's last major public projects, the Crocker Art Museum expansion complements the 125-year-old Museum's historic structures, which include one of the first purpose-built art museum buildings in the United States.



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The Crocker will inaugurate its new galleries with a series of special exhibitions, including a new retrospective of the work of Sacramento resident Wayne Thiebaud. On view beginning October 10, 2010, *Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming* features 50 paintings and drawings spanning the artist's career. Also featured in the permanent collection galleries is *River Intersection* (2010), a new painting by Thiebaud created as a gift for the Crocker on the occasion of its 125th birthday. The opening exhibition program also includes: *A Pioneering Collection: Master Drawings from the Crocker Art Museum*, which showcases one of the finest early collections of master drawings in the United States; *Tomorrow's Legacies: Gifts Celebrating the Next 125 Years*, a display of 125 promised gifts to the Crocker, that includes Tang Dynasty sculpture, French Barbizon paintings, American Impressionism, and Contemporary California art; and *The Vase and Beyond*, the premiere public presentation of the Sidney Swidler Collection of 20th-century studio ceramics, which was recently given to the Museum.

The Crocker will celebrate its reopening on October 10 with a free public celebration from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., with activities, performances, and entertainment for children, families and adults. The Crocker's Opening Day will also celebrate Sacramento's arts community at large, with participation by local and regional arts organizations and artists. Highlights of the day include performances by the Sacramento Youth Jazz Band, Symphony and Choir; Salsa, Indian, Mexican, African and Irish dance and music; ArtCar Fest – 2010, the West Coast's largest gathering of art cars; and a 9:30 p.m. Laser Light Show to conclude the day's festivities.

"One hundred and twenty five years after the Crocker first opened its doors as a public art museum, we have completed an expansion that will enable us to serve our community for the next century," said Lial A. Jones, Mort and Marcy Friedman Director of the Crocker Art Museum. "We look forward to welcoming visitors into our expansive new galleries, educational facilities, and public spaces for an arts experience unlike any previously available in Sacramento and the region."

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“The arts are an essential component of the fabric of our community,” said Mayor Kevin Johnson, who launched the For Arts Sake initiative to support the arts in Sacramento in 2009. “The opening of the expanded Crocker Art Museum is an incredible accomplishment, and represents a significant strengthening of Sacramento’s cultural landscape—a development that will enhance our local economy, our education system, and our quality of life.”

The Crocker Art Museum, which became a public institution in 1885, marks its 125th anniversary in 2010. The Museum’s holdings and programs have burgeoned as the population of Sacramento—the State Capital—has increased and diversified. Today, the Museum houses a comprehensive collection of Californian art dating from the Gold Rush to the present day, exceptional holdings of master drawings, European paintings, Asian art, one of the largest and most comprehensive international ceramics collections in the United States, and growing collections of African and Oceanic art.

The Crocker’s expansion is supported by a \$100-million capital campaign, the largest fundraising initiative ever undertaken by a cultural institution in the region. With more than \$92 million raised to date, the campaign has received generous support with more than 20 donations of \$1 million or more, with lead gifts from the Joyce and Jim Teel Family Foundation, Mort and Marcy Friedman, Loet Vanderveen and the City of Sacramento.

“The opening of the Teel Family Pavilion marks a major milestone in the history of the Crocker and in the development of Sacramento,” said Marcy Friedman, Campaign Co-Chair and Crocker Art Museum Association Board Member. “It is extremely gratifying to have played a role in creating this stunning new architectural landmark for our city, and in enriching the cultural life of the region.”



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Gifts to the Collection

The Crocker's expansion has spurred a number of major gifts of art to further grow its permanent collection. Pieces from the extensive collections donated by sculptor Loet Vanderveen and Miep and Philip Palmer, including massive *bis* poles, Asmat shields, and African masks, will serve as the basis for two new collecting areas at the Crocker: African and Oceanic art. To build the Crocker's already strong holdings of California art, Melza and Ted Barr donated a major gift of California Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings. Also expanding the Crocker's California art collection is a significant collection of Bay Area Abstract Expressionist works from George Y. and LaVona J. Blair, comprising of painting and sculpture by many of the artists that defined the movement, including Ernest Briggs, Edward Dugmore and John Saccaro. The Crocker's expansion also served as impetus for the donation of Sidney Swidler's encyclopedic holdings of 800 20th-century ceramic vessels, which will be showcased as one of the inaugural exhibitions at the New Crocker. The Crocker's holdings in ceramics were further increased with a gift from collector Rob Wood of 37 works by ceramist Rob Barnard, one of the foremost practitioners of the wood-fired tradition, and a donation by world-renowned ceramist Toshiko Takaezu of a career-spanning survey of 45 of her works.

Architecture and Design

Judge Edwin B. and Margaret Crocker commissioned the construction of a Victorian-Italianate building to serve as a gallery for their art collection in 1869, a year before the founding of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Boston Museum of Fine Art, and a decade before the founding of the Art Institute of Chicago. In 1885, Margaret Crocker presented both the building and collection to the city as a public art museum. While the Crocker Art Museum undertook a series of renovations and additions in the last century, the facility could not keep pace with the Museum's growing collection and public interest in its programs.

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In 2000, the Crocker Art Museum began a master planning process with Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects and in 2002 commissioned the firm to design a major expansion of the Museum. The design for the Crocker Art Museum, and most of the building construction, was completed before the death of Charles Gwathmey in August 2009. Gwathmey Siegel Associate Partner Gerald Gendreau, who has worked on the design since its inception, oversaw the project's completion.

Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects' design strategy for the expansion was to establish a new architectural icon for the Museum and Sacramento, a structure that both complements the Museum's original Victorian-Italianate Art Gallery building and engages with the surrounding cityscape. GSAA's design creates a dynamic and harmonious collage of new and historic architecture. Inside, the Teel Family Pavilion galleries connect directly to the historic Art Gallery building, allowing for fluid movement between the new and existing spaces and joining the complex together into an integrated whole.

In addition to extensive new galleries for temporary exhibitions and the display of the Crocker's permanent collection, the New Crocker includes an educational center featuring art studios, an education resource room, a participatory art gallery for children, a library, and student exhibition spaces. The Anne and Malcolm McHenry Works on Paper Study Center greatly improves access for visiting scholars and students studying the Crocker's outstanding master drawings collection. The expansion also provides space for onsite collections care and storage, as well as a new conservation lab. New public amenities, including a 260-seat auditorium, a cafe with indoor and outdoor seating, a 7,000-square-foot open-air courtyard, and a redesigned Crocker Art Museum Store have also been added. The first floor also provides free Wi-Fi to the community.

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Collection and Inaugural Exhibitions

The Teel Family Pavilion's extensive new galleries, totaling nearly 45,000 square feet, will allow the Crocker to exhibit significantly more of its permanent collection, which has grown by more than 4,000 objects in the past decade. To celebrate its 125th anniversary and the opening of the Teel Family Pavilion, the Crocker has compiled *The Crocker Art Museum Collection Unveiled*, the first comprehensive catalogue of its collection. Edited by Chief Curator and Associate Director Scott A. Shields, the hardcover volume features more than 500 color illustrations, as well as accompanying essays. The Museum's inaugural exhibitions will focus on showcasing its current collection and promised gifts in collecting areas including California Impressionism, California Abstract Expressionism, Asian art, and ceramics.

Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming

October 10, 2010 to November 28, 2010

This new exhibition is a homecoming for both the artist and the Crocker Art Museum. In 1951, the Crocker presented Thiebaud's first solo exhibition, *Influences on a Young Painter*. The Museum's current major retrospective, featuring 50 paintings and drawings, spans the entirety of Thiebaud's career from the artist's early works to new paintings created in 2010. Drawn in part from the traveling exhibition *Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting*, and organized by Thiebaud and Chief Curator Scott A. Shields, this exhibition will include many works not previously displayed, with special attention given to Sacramento places and personalities.

Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming includes iconic edibles—work that linked high art with popular culture—alongside pieces that showcase Thiebaud's skill in rendering the human figure and the California landscape. Among the latter are river-delta views from the Sacramento area, cityscapes from San Francisco, and beach scenes from Southern California. The works attest to the artist's ability to sensuously manipulate pigment and capture clear light and vibrant color, demonstrating Thiebaud's technical virtuosity and tongue-in-cheek humor. Additional works by Thiebaud will also be on view in the Crocker's permanent collection galleries as well as in the exhibition *Tomorrow's Legacies: Gifts Celebrating the Next 125 Years*.

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A Pioneering Collection: Master Drawings from the Crocker Art Museum

October 10, 2010 to February 6, 2011

The Crocker Art Museum holds one of the finest early collections of master drawings in the United States, purchased for the most part between 1869–71 by the Museum’s founders, E. B. and Margaret Crocker. *A Pioneering Collection* explores the beauty, quality and scholarly importance of the collection with 56 drawings, including works by Albrecht Dürer, Fra Bartolommeo, Anthonie van Dyck and Jean-Honoré Fragonard. New acquisitions and new discoveries are also featured. The exhibition opens in conjunction with the Museum’s new Anne and Malcolm McHenry Works on Paper Study Center and was organized by Crocker Curator William Breazeale, who is the lead author for the exhibition catalogue. The exhibition features many notable works, including:

- Albrecht Dürer’s *Female Nude with a Staff*, drawn by the greatest German artist of the Renaissance in 1498, soon after his return from Italy
- *The Meeting of the Doge and Pope at Ancona*, by the Venetian Renaissance painter Vittore Carpaccio, the only surviving compositional drawing for a lost mural painting in the city’s Palazzo Ducale
- *Two Clerics* by Peter Lely, one of a series of 31 drawings depicting a Procession of the Order of the Garter by the greatest portraitist working in 17th-century England
- *The Actor Brochard in Costume*, one of the earliest surviving portraits by Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, made before he achieved fame in that genre

Tomorrow’s Legacies: Gifts Celebrating the Next 125 Years

October 10, 2010 to January 9, 2011

Looking toward the future of its collection, this opening exhibition features 125 gifts that have been promised to the Crocker in celebration of its expansion and 125th anniversary. Given by donors throughout California and across the United States, the pieces include sculpture, painting, works on paper, ceramics, and photography spanning the history of cultures worldwide. All of these works will one day become part of the Crocker’s permanent collection. The exhibition includes:

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- Viola Frey, *Standing Man*, 2000. Stoneware, 101 x 33 x 22 in. Promised gift of Mort and Marcy Friedman
- Amedeo Modigliani, *Nude*, n.d. Blue and red crayon on beige wove paper, 10 3/8 x 13 1/8 in. Promised gift of the Elkus Family in memory of Ben Britton Elkus
- China, Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 CE), *Courtiers on Horseback*, n.d. Earthenware, each approximately 14 1/4 x 13 3/4 x 5 in. Promised gift from the Loet Vanderveen Collection
- Robert Mapplethorpe, *Tulips in a Box*, 1983. Gelatin silver print, 20 x 16 in. Promised gift of Jon Stevenson and John Silici
- John Twachtman, *Artist's Home, Greenwich, Connecticut*, ca. 1890. Oil on canvas, 15 1/2 x 18 7/8 in. Promised gift of Dorothy and Norm Lien
- Theodore Butler, *Train in Flood*, 1910. Oil on canvas, 26 x 31 1/2 in. Promised gift of Anne and Malcolm McHenry
- Zulu Peoples, South Africa, *Wooden Staff with Maternity Figure*, 1880s. Wood with pigment, 38 x 1 1/2 x 1 1/2 in. Promised gift of Rhea and Dan Brunner

The Vase and Beyond: The Sidney Swidler Collection of the Contemporary Vessel

October 10, 2010 to April 10, 2011

The Sidney Swidler Collection of 20th-century studio ceramics features some 800 vessels by 300 international artists. The collection, which was given to the Crocker in its entirety, showcases the wide-ranging, innovative practice of contemporary ceramic artists with an array of forms, techniques, and glazes, and offers a fully developed view of the medium from the early-20th-century to the present. *The Vase and Beyond* includes works by such artists as Curtis Benzle, Colin Pearson, Angela Verdon, Val Cushing and Jeffrey Swindell, and encompasses pieces in styles from the avant-garde to the traditional and the rustic.

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Swidler's fascination with ceramics was influenced by his work as an architect. After his first careful acquisitions, he became increasingly passionate about the medium, acquiring signature forms from well-known American artists. He went on to collect pieces by Danish, Japanese, German, Canadian and Australian artists, as well as works by a complete roster of the foremost 20th-century British ceramists. Exhibition curator Diana L. Daniels authored the exhibition catalogue.

City of Sacramento

Founded in the early years of the Gold Rush, Sacramento became the capital of California in 1854. In 2009, Sacramento was cited as one of America's 10 favorite cities by the Pew Research Center. Greater Sacramento, with a population of 2.1 million, is one of the fastest growing regions in the United States.



Located at the intersection of the American and the Sacramento rivers in California's Central Valley, the City of Sacramento offers a cosmopolitan convergence of old and new, from notable historical sites to a vibrant cultural and civic life.

Sacramento features a range of museums, art galleries, and performing arts organizations, including the Sacramento Philharmonic Orchestra, the Sacramento Opera, the Sacramento Ballet, California Musical Theatre, B Street Theatre, and the Sacramento Theatre Company, as well as the California State Railroad Museum and the California Museum of History, Women, and the Arts. The city's award-winning restaurants highlight local produce and wines from the surrounding region, including nearby Capay Valley and Amador and El Dorado Counties. In Old Sacramento, a 28-acre district of historic buildings just two blocks from the Crocker, visitors can immerse themselves in the city's early history. The tree-lined American River Parkway, running along a 23-mile stretch of that river, provides equestrians, joggers and cyclists a place to enjoy one of the region's many natural attractions.

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Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects

Founded in 1968, Gwathmey Siegel & Associates Architects is a New York-based firm offering master planning, architectural, interior and product design services. GSAA has completed over four hundred projects for cultural, educational, healthcare, corporate, government, and private clients throughout the United States and abroad. The firm has an international reputation for its work and is the winner of more than 100 design awards. The firm's designs have been featured in numerous exhibitions and histories of contemporary architecture.

Gwathmey Siegel & Associates received the American Institute of Architects' highest honor—the Firm Award—for "approaching every project with a fresh eye, a meticulous attention to detail, a keen appreciation for environmental and economic concerns and a strong belief in collaborative effort."

Corporate Support

The Grand Opening celebration is presented by Western Health Advantage with additional support from U.S. Bank. *Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming* is presented by *Sactown* magazine.

The Crocker Art Museum was established in 1885 and is one of the leading art institutions in Northern California. The Museum offers a diverse spectrum of special exhibitions, events and programs to augment its collections of Californian, European, Asian, African and Oceanic artworks. The Museum is closed for renovation through October 9. On October 10, the Crocker will open the 125,000-square-foot Teel Family Pavilion. The Crocker is located at 216 O Street in Downtown Sacramento. Starting October 12, Museum hours will be 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Tuesday–Wednesday; 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday–Sunday. Every Third Sunday of the month is "Pay What You Wish Sunday" sponsored by Bank of America. For more information, call (916) 808-7000 or visit crockerartmuseum.org.

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