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Karl Benjamin, *ES #1*, 1961. Oil on canvas.  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum Purchase

***SBMA Highlights the Contemporary with “California Calling”***  
Exhibition is Springboard for New Audio Guide and Artist Talks

Part I: July 18 – December 27  
Part II: September 12 – December 20

September 14, 2009 – ***Edetic, inventive, anti-conformist...*** these are just a few of the widespread characterizations of artists who have lived and worked in the richest, most diverse, and most populous region of the United States since the end of World War II. ***California Calling Works from Santa Barbara Collections, 1948 - 2008*** is a two-part exhibition highlighting works from a selection of artists and movements in California from the past sixty years—a period that generated some of the most innovative and critically recognized art in the world.

Drawn primarily from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's permanent collection and local private collections, this exhibition highlights works from various artists and movements throughout California's diverse Post-World War II history. The inspiration for this exhibition rises from the rich and vital history of art made along the West Coast after 1945 and the equally important role that SBMA has played in this history. For example, many of the works featured are by artists who showed at the Museum at early points in their careers. Featuring both celebrated and under-recognized artists, it also intends to reveal the sense of individualism and insight inspired by this expansive terrain.

The time period that this exhibition regards is significant. Circa 1948 art went through a major transformation in California and across the globe. Surrealist tendencies morphed into or were discarded in favor of entirely new forms of art-making, especially Abstract Expressionism, and, from there, expressive types of figurative painting (especially prominent in the San Francisco Bay Area), regional forms of Pop Art, and onto work inspired by Minimalism, Conceptual Art, New Materials, and beyond. Works representing these genres and others are present throughout the exhibition.



**Left image:** David Park, *The Woman* 1957. Oil on canvas. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. K.W. Tremaine in honor of Mr. Paul Mills' appointment as Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

**Right image:** Ed Ruscha, *City* 1968. Oil on linen. Collection of Robert & Mary M. Looker.

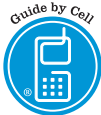
Artists featured include those who have reputations that range from local notoriety to international fame. Santa Barbara-based artists in the exhibition include **Phil Argent, Gary Brown, Dan Connally** and **Joan Tanner**; as well as local legends such as **William Dole** and others. Internationally recognized figures are also represented, including **Sam Francis, John McLaughlin, David Park, Ed Ruscha, Betye Saar, James Turrell**, and many more.

Several recent acquisitions are featured in **California Calling** including a large heat-sensor painting by Pictures Generation artist **Jack Goldstein**, significant drawings by mid-career Los Angeles-based artists **Edgar Arceneaux, Ingrid Calame, Russell Crotty**, and **Aaron Morse**, among others; as well as a seminal interactive sculpture by **Charles Long** titled **SunbeSculptingSchul**. Large-scale sculptures by **Larry Bell, Liz Craft, John McCracken, Patrick Nickell**, and **Peter Voulkos** also highlight this presentation.

Works by artists who began their careers in California yet continued to thrive elsewhere include **Vija Celmins, Terry Fox, David Hammons, Fred Tomaselli**, and **Paul Sarkisian**. The exhibition also features works by several artists who have recently passed away, including the great Abstract Classicist **Frederick Hammersley**, and the renown Bay Area artists **David Ireland** and **Paul Wonner**.

## **Related Programming**

**New! Guide by Cell Audio Tours (available October 1, 2009)**



With the run of the **California Calling** exhibition, SBMA introduces the launch of Guide by Cell – a cell phone-based audio tour. This technology allows visitors to use their own cell phone to listen to Julie Joyce, SBMA Curator of Contemporary Art describing individual pieces, musings by individual artists, and odd facts related to works in the exhibition. More than 1.5 million visitors from 600 organizations, including the Smithsonian, Central Park, and the Woodrow Wilson House, have utilized this service, but this is the first time the technology has been introduced to Santa Barbara.

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### ***California Conversations on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday***

***Thursday, October 1\****

***Russell Crotty and Dan Connally***

***Thursday, November 5***

***Joe Goode and Joan Tanner***

***Thursday, December 3***

***Karen Carson and Dan McCleary***

***5:30 to 6:30 pm***

This series of free, informal conversations feature artists in the exhibition talking about their work in context. Museum Café and galleries open until 8 pm. Mary Craig Auditorium.

***Free***

\*In October, SBMA also hosts College/University Night with music by artist and DJ ***Eamon Ore-Giron*** performing as ***DJ Mono***, and ***Goodland***, representing the forthcoming New Noise Santa Barbara Festival; informal talks by gallery docents; and ***Collective Collage*** an art activity inspired by the works of William Dole, Aaron Morse, Alexis Smith and others, following the California Conversation.

### ***Sundae Sculpting School Ice Cream Social***

***Sunday, December 5, 1 – 3 pm***

Families are invited to participate in one of two brief demonstrations and informal talks by featured ***California Calling*** artist, Charles Long. SBMA's teaching artists will be on hand to assist visitors with creating clay sculptures and/or designing their own soft serve ice cream sundae.

***Free***

### ***Tours***

Docent tours for the public are offered at least once a week at the SBMA. Free with admission.

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***Complete List of Artists in California Calling exhibition:***

***Part I: July 18 – December 27, 2009***

***Campbell/Gould Galleries and Sterling Morton E/W Galleries***

Terry Allen	Fred Eversley	Channing Peake
Robert Arneson	Sam Francis	Carter Potter
Herbert Bayer	Joe Goode	Betye Saar
Larry Bell	Frederick Hammersley	James Strombotne
Billy Al Bengston	John Hultberg	Joan Tanner
Karl Benjamin	David Ireland	Wayne Thiebaud
Dorr Bothwell	Ynez Johnston	James Turrell
William Brice	Rico Lebrun	Peter Voulkos
Morris Broderson	Helen Lundeberg	Howard Warshaw
Vija Celmins	John McCracken	William T. Wiley
Ronald Davis	John McLaughlin	Guy Williams
Roy De Forest	Ed Moses	Paul Wonner
William Dole	Nathan Oliveira	
Tim Ebner	David Park	

***Part II: September 12 – December 20, 2009***

***Davidson and Colefax Galleries***

Edgar Arceneaux	Jack Goldstein	Ken Price
Phil Argent	David Hammons	Roland Reiss
Gary Brown	Tom Knechtel	Ed Ruscha
Chris Burden	Peter Krasnow	Paul Sarkisian
Ingrid Calame	Charles Long	Alexis Smith
Karen Carson	Dan McCleary	Brad Spence
Dan Connally	John McCracken	Fred Tomaselli
Liz Craft	Aaron Morse	Joyce Treiman
Russell Crotty	Lee Mullican	Tom Wudl
Paul Dillon	Patrick Nickell	
Terry Fox	Lari Pittman	

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that presents internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

***Santa Barbara Museum of Art***

***1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA***

***Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday.***

***805.963.4364 [www.sbma.net](http://www.sbma.net)***