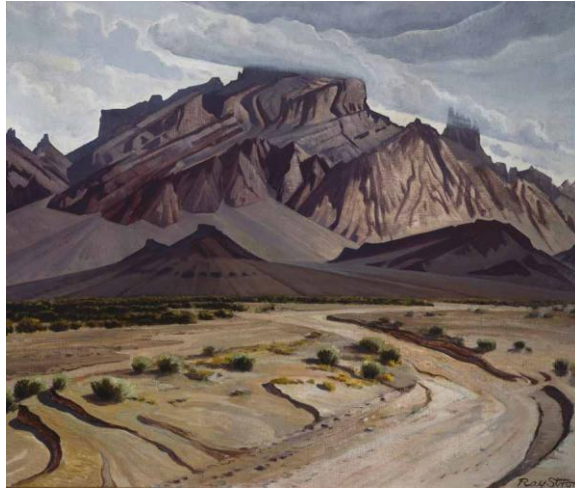




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Ray Stanford Strong, *Requiem for Maynard Dixon*, 1946. Oil on canvas.  
Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by Robert and Marlene Veloz.

## ***Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara***

Installation Features Works by the Artist in SBMA's Permanent Collection  
and is Part of Community-Wide Ray Strong Celebration  
On View May 23 – June 21, 2015

*April 17, 2015* — *Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara* highlights a selection of works by esteemed artist Ray Strong (1905–2006) from the collection of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA). This intimate presentation of six paintings and drawings features landscapes and cityscapes produced outside of the Santa Barbara area created during a 45-year period, offering a view of Strong's travels and his lifelong interest in depicting the environment around him.

Preferring to work *en plein air* throughout his career, Strong was dedicated to rendering the landscape in a representational manner. Strong was born in Corvallis, Oregon, and in the 1920s enrolled in the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco (now San Francisco Art Institute). He left the program to attend The Art Students League of New York, where he also studied with Frank Vincent DuMond. Upon returning to San Francisco in the 1930s, Strong went on to revive a California version of The Art Students League with Maynard Dixon, George Post, and Frank van Sloan. During the Depression, Strong produced easel paintings and murals for the Public Works of Art Project. Moving to Santa Barbara in 1960, he was commissioned to paint background settings for the dioramas in the Bird Hall at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. In 1986, Strong co-founded The OAK Group in Santa Barbara, a collective of artists dedicated to painting and preserving the natural landscape.

Highlights of *Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara* include the commanding landscape *Requiem for Maynard Dixon* (1946), which was painted near Quartzite, Arizona, in the year that Strong's mentor Maynard Dixon died. The painting *Twilight, Mt. Hood (Near Cherryville, Oregon)* (1927), painted during one of the artist's visits to Oregon. *Lower East Side, New York City, Rainy Day Under the El* (1926-27) reflects the artist's studies at the Art Students League in New

York. The exhibition also includes two drawings—*Field Near Assisi* (1971) and *Van Gogh Bridge, Amsterdam* (1971)—which provide examples of Strong's work in a medium other than painting. Staged within the context of Santa Barbara, this presentation allows visitors to consider the geographical breadth of the artist's work, offering a captivating window into Strong's artistic legacy.



Ray Stanford Strong, *Twilight, Mt. Hood (Near Cherryville, Oregon)*, 1927. Oil on canvas. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Museum purchase with funds provided by Robert and Marlene Veloz.

### **Guide by Cell**

A free, self-guided audio tour of this installation is available. Visitors are invited to use their cell phone to hear commentary on selected works in the presentation by local artists who knew Ray Strong.

This installation is organized in conjunction with **The Ray Strong Project**, an initiative of Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, which includes a series of events and exhibitions coalescing in June of 2015 at museums and galleries in the Santa Barbara area. Other participants include the City of Santa Barbara, The Easton Gallery, James Main Fine Art, Santa Barbara Art Association, Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, Santa Barbara Historical Museum, Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery, and Wildling Museum. For additional information, go to: <http://www.theraystrongproject.com>.

### **Participating Organizations/Exhibitions**

#### **Santa Barbara County Arts Commission**

Santa Barbara County Administration Building (hallway to the Engineering Building)

105 E. Anapamu Street

Naomi Schwartz Building (2<sup>nd</sup> story stairwell)

130 E. Victoria Street

City Hall Gallery, Santa Barbara City Hall

De La Guerra Plaza

*Ray Strong: Shared Vision/Common Ground*

March 16, 2015 – February 18, 2016

#### **James Main Fine Art**

27 E. De La Guerra Street

*The Impressionist of Early California*

May 1 – June 25, 2015

#### **Santa Barbara Museum of Art**

1130 State Street

*Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara*

May 23 – June 21, 2015

#### **Santa Barbara Art Association/Santa Barbara Public Library**

Faulkner/East Gallery

40 E. Anapamu Street

June 4 – August 30, 2015

**Santa Barbara Historical Museum**  
136 E. De La Guerra Street  
*Ray Strong: Views of Santa Barbara County*  
June 4 – August 31, 2015

**Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**  
2559 Puesta de Sol  
*Ray Strong (1905–2006): Artist in Residence*  
June 4 – October 4, 2015

**Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery**  
11 E. Anapamu Street  
*Ray Strong: American Artist*  
June 4 – August 2, 2015

**Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation**  
Casa de la Guerra, 15 E. De la Guerra Street  
*The Art of Preservation: The Oak Group Remembers Ray Strong*  
June 5 – August 9, 2015

**Santa Barbara Maritime Museum**  
113 Harbor Way  
*On the Waterfront: Paintings by Ray Strong*  
June 11 – August 30, 2015

### Related Programming

**Thursday, May 28, 5:30 – 6:30 pm**  
**Sketching in the Galleries: The Landscapes of Ray Strong**  
**Santa Barbara Museum of Art**

Experience the tradition of sketching and be inspired by the dynamic landscapes on view in the intimate installation *Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara*. All skill levels are welcome. Teaching Artists provide general guidance and all materials. This program is open to 10 participants on a first come, first served basis. Sign-up begins at 5:15 pm at the State Street Visitor Services Desk.  
**Free**

**Thursday, June 4, 5 – 7 pm**  
**Opening Reception**  
**Santa Barbara County Arts Commission**  
Santa Barbara City Hall  
735 Anacapa Street  
6 pm: Remarks by Mayor Helene Schneider

**Thursday, June 4, 5 – 8 pm**  
**Opening Reception**  
**Santa Barbara Historical Museum**

Thursday, June 4, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Family 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

*Ray Strong: Beyond Santa Barbara*

Twilight Landscapes

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Bring the whole family and enjoy 1st Thursday together in SBMA's Family Resource Center located across from the Museum Café on the Lower Level. Museum Teaching Artists will assist families in creating special exhibition-based art projects. Afterwards, enjoy the galleries until 8 pm. In June, sketch diffused sunlight on a landscape in chalk pastel on tan paper, then use a masking technique to create a dark tree line against the sky, inspired by Ray Strong's *Twilight, Mt. Hood (Near Cherryville, Oregon)*.

Free

Thursday, June 4, 5 – 7 pm

Opening Reception

Sullivan Goss – An American Gallery

Thursday, June 11, 5:30 pm

Lecture and Reception

Santa Barbara Historical Museum

Presentation by the following: Arturo Tello, co-founder of the OAK Group; Michael Drury, student of the artist; Marlene Miller, gallery owner who represented the artist's work; Jeremy Tessmer, editor of the upcoming related publication

Thursday, June 11, 5:30 – 7 pm

Opening Reception

Santa Barbara Maritime Museum

Thursday, June 11, 5 – 7 pm

Opening Reception

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

Thursday, July 2, 5 – 8 pm

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday

Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation