1st FLOOR

MAIN LOBBY
The lobby includes a diverse mix of art including pieces by Roy De Forest, Maija Peeples-Bright, David Gilhooly, George Longfish, Wayne Thiebaud, Tony Natsoulas and Robert Brady.

COURTYARD
The library Courtyard is home to two interesting works. A large piece, Suspension, by Cedric Wentworth and The Dog Bench, by Roy De Forest.

LIBRARY LAB CORNER
The south east corner of the library is home to an intriguing mixture of art in various formats including a dramatic black and gold assemble piece by Daniel Shapiro and multiple pieces by Roland Petersen.

ART ZONES
These maps highlight areas within the Shields Library where clusters of art are displayed. Art is present in additional areas of the library as well. A complete list of art pieces and their locations is available at the information desk.

SALLY L. PORTER READING ROOM
This room serves as a gateway to the main reading room, and features a large collection of abstract expressionist paintings by Hassel Smith.

MAIN READING ROOM
Some of the largest pieces in the collection are located here. Included are paintings by David Hollowell, Brenda Louie, and a painting depicting the 1998 UC Davis Art Department faculty by Von Cummings Sumners.

NELLE U. BRANCH READING ROOM
There are pieces by Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, and others throughout the reading room and adjoining space.

2nd FLOOR
ARThUR gONZALEZ (b.1954)
Arthur Gonzalez was born in Sacramento, California and received his MFA at UC Davis in 1981 under Robert Arneson and Manuel Neri. He originally started out as a painter but turned to sculpting to give his painting breathing room and feel less stymied in his work. He appreciates that the medium of clay allows him to think in terms of objects instead of images. He has received many awards and grants, and is a two-time Virginia Groot Foundation Grant and four-time National Endowment of the Arts Grant repient. He currently teaches workshops and is a Professor of Art at the California College of the Arts. His art pieces are spread across collections in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, Italy, Canada, Belgium and Australia.

ROBERT BRADY (1928-1986)
Robert Brady was born in Reno, Nevada, attended the California College of Arts and Crafts, and then attended UC Davis where he worked with Robert Arneson and received his MFA in 1976. He started as a potter, then moved to ceramic sculptures, and eventually added figurative wood images to his sculptures. In the 1970s, he established himself as one of the artists behind the Bay Area Figurative Movement. He moved effortlessly between the mediums of clay and wood, often using thin and large figures that would have been difficult to achieve in clay. His work includes human figures with emphasis on spiritual and mythological archetypes. In addition to creating art, he worked as a professor at California State University, Sacramento. His work can be seen in California, Hawaii, Washington, D.C., and Amsterdam.
David Gilhooly was born in Auburn, California and graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor’s degree in 1965 and a master’s degree in 1967. He was a student in Robert Arneson’s first ceramic class and later became his assistant. He left UC Davis for a semester to become Manuel Neri’s assistant and started experimenting with other media including wood, fur, and plexiglass. Together with and alongside Arneson, Peter Vandenberge, Margaret Dodd and others, he created ceramic pieces that were later referred to as the Funk Ceramic Movement of the San Francisco Bay Area. His playful ceramic animals and work led to the anti-functional emphasis of the Funk Art Movement. Gilhooly’s work can be found in public collections throughout the United States and in the Netherlands.

George Longfish was born in Owhweken, Ontario in 1942 and earned his MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago in 1972. After teaching in the graduate program in American Indian Art at the University of Montana, Longfish became a professor of Native American Studies at UC Davis where he taught for 30 years until 2003. He also served as the director of the UC Davis C.N. Gorman Native American Museum from 1974 to 1996. During his time as director, he made the museum a premier exhibition space for Native American artists. In his own artistic practice, Longfish uses painting to explore issues of personal and Native American identity. Through the use of bold colors and textual messages, Longfish illustrates Native American values and the complexity of their identities, their histories, and their struggles for respect and understanding regarding their cultural heritage.
MAIJA PEEPLES-BRIGHT (b. 1942)

Maija Peeples was born in Riga, Latvia and moved to Northern California eight years later. She was working toward her degree in math when her academic counselor advised her to take an art class to fulfill general education requirements. She discovered that she loved art and began creating paintings, prints and ceramic sculptures of zany, loveable animals and bright flowers. She studied under Wayne Thiebaud, William T. Wiley and Robert Arneson and gained her MFA in one year. In 1967, Peeples lived in San Francisco in a house she painted every color Dutch Boy produced and called it “The Rainbow House”. Her works are in private collections and museums in the United States and internationally.

ROBERT ARNESON (1930-1992)

Robert Arneson was born in Benicia, California and received his bachelor’s degree from the California College of Arts and Crafts in 1954 and his MFA from Mills College in 1958. In 1962 he arrived at UC Davis, where he taught ceramics for nearly three decades. Known for his cartoonish ceramic sculptures and darkly humorous self-portraits, Arneson was essential to the formation of the California Funk Art Movement, which was known for blending pop-culture imagery with lewd subject matter and a cartoon aesthetic. In his art, Arneson rejected traditional ceramics such as decorative vases and functional dinnerware. Instead, Arneson used humor to draw attention to his pieces, but a closer look reveals complex expressions of the artist’s psyche and his critiques of the surrounding world. The first of his egghead sculpture series is situated in front of the Shields Library and unlike the other egg heads, this egghead interacts with an object – a book.
ROY DE FOREST (1930-2007)
Roy De Forest grew up in Nebraska, Colorado and Yakima, Washington, where he attended junior college. He studied at the San Francisco Art Institute, served in the army and went on to earn his master’s degree at San Francisco State University. By the late 1960s, De Forest’s paintings and works feature mixed patterns and non-objective elements with recognizable forms of people, landscapes and animals led to his emergence as a key figure in Funk Art Movement. His work embraced humor and personalized fantasy worlds and he became known for his comic-like patchwork regionalist (California) style. He taught at UC Davis from 1965 to 1992 with Robert Arneson, Manuel Neri, Wayne Thiebaud and William T. Wiley. His art can be found in museums throughout the United States and in Paris at the Centre Georges Pompidou. De Forest’s painting, “Dog Cart from Hell,” is currently on loan to the Oakland Museum of California.

TONY NATSOULAS (b.1959)
Tony Natsoulas grew up in Davis, where his father was a professor of psychology at UC Davis. In 1977, he started making large ceramic sculptures at Davis Senior High School. His teacher was impressed with his work and recommended that he take concurrent classes at UC Davis. Natsoulas later credited his professor Robert Arneson with giving him the incentive to pursue art as a career. In 1983, Natsoulas was accepted to the Maryland Institute College of Art for graduate school and attended for a year before returning to California and enrolling in the UC Davis MFA program. He began creating life size figurative ceramic sculptures concentrating on form and gesture. In 2004, he was chosen as one of the “Top 100 Artists Living in the USA Today” by the Archives of American Art, The Smithsonian Museum, and the American Craft Museum in New York.
WILLIAM T. WILEY (b.1937)

William T. Wiley was born in Bedford, Indiana and studied art at the San Francisco Art Institute. His work includes various media and is considered one of the first Pop Art exhibits in the United States. Thiebaud is adverse to labels such as “fine art” versus “commercial art” and has described himself as “just an old-fashioned painter.” He was presented the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 1994, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for art from the American Academy of Design in 2001, and was honored with the California Art Award in 2013 for his role in raising the prominence of California art internationally.

WAYNE THIEBAUD (b.1920)

Wayne Thiebaud was born in 1920 and grew up in Long Beach, California. He earned a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s degree from California State University, Sacramento. In 1960, he became an assistant professor at UC Davis and taught for nearly 40 years. On a leave of absence in 1956-57, he spent time in New York City, where he became friends with Elaine and Willem de Kooning. He was influenced by them and other abstractionist artists as well as proto-pop artists Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. In 1962, Thiebaud’s work was alongside Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and Jim Dine in the historically important “New Paintings of Common Objects” exhibition curated by Walter Hopps at the Pasadena Art Museum. This exhibit is considered one of the first Pop Art exhibits in the United States. Thiebaud is adverse to labels such as “fine art” versus “commercial art” and has described himself as “just an old-fashioned painter.” He was presented the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 1994, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for art from the American Academy of Design in 2001, and was honored with the California Art Award in 2013 for his role in raising the prominence of California art internationally.
CEDRIC WENTWORTH (b.1966)
Cedric Wentworth was born in San Francisco, went on to work as an apprentice at Cacciatori Studios in Italy and then serve as an assistant master at Paolucci Studios. He is known for his ability to craft with industrial steel forms and bronze figures, and his works that transformed the meaning of Postmodern art sculpture. The placements of the figures in his sculptures and painting are metaphors alluding to the contemporary and spiritual moral crises confronting the human species. Since Wentworth started sculpting in 1992, he has created numerous public art sculptures and is featured in private, and group exhibitions not only in California, but all over the world. He resides in Northern California, New York and Italy, and teaches at the Academy of Art University, San Francisco.

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ROLAND PETERSEN  
(b.1926)
Roland Petersen was born in Endelave, Denmark and studied art in California and London. He is a founding member of the UC Davis Art Department where he taught for 37 years. He has a distinctive and recognizable style of printmaking and contemporary colors to set off forms. He also abstracts forms and reduces them to geometric shapes, while still making them recognizable. His work hangs in museums worldwide, and he has been instrumental in advancing art education locally.

LISA REINERTSON  
(b.1955)
Coming from a family of social activists in California, Lisa Reinertson’s figurative ceramic and large-scale public sculptures include a quality of humanism and peace. She completed her MFA at UC Davis in 1984 studying with Robert Arneson and other faculty. She has taught at several colleges and universities in California. Her notable works include a statue of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in the UC Davis Law School, over 20 public commissions in bronze, and “Mother and Child Sculpture Garden”, for the city of Palm Desert.

DANIEL SHAPIRO  
(1920-1982)
Daniel Shapiro was born in New York City and studied art at Cooper Union and Columbia University. He came to UC Davis in 1959 and taught for over 20 years in both the Art and Design departments. He was inspired by the beauty of banal objects, so he created assemblages using what he called “contemporary artifacts”, or found objects such as old clothes, shoes, cans, and rope, which he transformed into archaeology of our time. Collections of his work can be found at the San Francisco Museum of Art, De Young Museum, UC Davis and Crocker Museum.
FRANK DAMIANO  (b.1962)
Frank Damiano studied art at Central Washington University and UC Davis. His paintings have always had an emblematic side and his still lifes continue to function, not only as things in themselves, but as archetypes. His work can be seen at the John Natsoulas Gallery at UC Davis, and at exhibitions and galleries in California and Washington.

WILLIAM T. WILEY  (b.1937)
William Wiley was born in Bedford, Indiana and studied art at the San Francisco Art Institute. His work includes various media and styles including drawing, painting, sculpture, film and performance. Some of his work has been referred to as Funk Art, for which UC Davis was an epicenter in the 1960s and ‘70s. He was UC Davis faculty for over 20 years, and he continues to produce works that can be seen at the UC Davis Mondavi Center and in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

ELAINE DE KOONING  (1918-1989)
Elaine de Kooning was born in Brooklyn, New York and studied art at the Leonardo da Vinci Art School and the American Artist School, both in New York City. She was an accomplished landscape and portrait artist active in the Abstract Expressionism Movement. Over the course of her life, she held teaching posts at many institutions of higher education. Her works are in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum in New York.
Stephen Fleming was born in Oxford, Pennsylvania, but grew up in California and Mexico. He attended the Santa Barbara Art Institute, and studied at Sacramento State University and UC Davis where he attained his MFA with honors in 1985. He worked as a teaching assistant with Wayne Thiebaud, Manuel Neri, Roland Petersen and Mike Henderson. He currently serves as the Director of the Roswell Artist-In-Residence Program in New Mexico. His painting “Crowd Control” can be seen before you enter the Sally L. Porter Reading Room.

Hassel Smith was born in Sturgis, Michigan. He attained a bachelor’s degree cum laude from Northwestern University with a double major in art history and English literature before attending the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute). He was a visiting professor at UC Davis from 1973-75 and taught many students who became well-known artists, including long-time faculty member Roy De Forest. Smith’s abstract expressionist work suggests a deep and abiding restlessness and a conviction, shared by many painters of his generation, that canvas and paint can be made into an arena for discourse. His work can be found in private and public collections throughout the United States.
MARCO SASSONE (b.1942)
Marco Sassone was born in Campi Bisenzio, a Tuscan Village, shortly before World War II. A childhood encounter with a homeless man in his village inspired his lifelong interest in the cause of homelessness and the marginalization of certain groups. He attended the Instituto Galileo Galilei for several years before studying with Silvio Loffredo, who was a professor of art at the Academia in Florence. Sassone moved to California in 1967 and exhibited his painting, for the first time in the United States, at a gallery in Los Angeles. In 2005, he relocated to Toronto where he continues painting and working with humanitarian and educational organizations and foundations such as Inter-Aid and Another Planet.

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BRENDA LOUIE  
(b. 1953)

Brenda Louie was born in the Guangdong Province, in China. She came to the United States in 1972 to pursue her education in visual art at CSU Sacramento and attained her MFA in Studio Art from Stanford. She is a painter and mixed media artist who values the learning and teaching of art. Her work blends Eastern traditions with contemporary American culture. She exhibits her work in the United States and internationally. She has taught at the San Francisco Art Institute, UC Davis, Stanford University, and currently teaches at California State University, Sacramento.

DAVID HOLLOWELL  
(b. 1951)

David Hollowell was born in Hornell, New York and studied art at Ithaca College before attaining his master’s degree in painting from Yale University. He is a painter who belongs to the tradition of figurative art. Many of his paintings are large in size and one of his achievements is to realize a fascinating scale. His technique gives his work an almost science-fiction quality. He taught art at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri; Gustavous Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota; and, accepted a teaching position at UC Davis in 1984, where he is professor emeritus of studio art. His work can be found in private and public collections throughout the United States.
LIN FISCHER (b. 1943)
Lin Fischer was born in Healdsburg, California and grew up in Sacramento. Her maiden name was Linda Parsons, and she is a third-generation northern Californian. She earned her bachelor’s degree at UC Davis and MFA from the Academy of Art College in San Francisco. Her painting is done in the moment with the present feeling or experience being the basis of the expression that will be brought forth. There is no pre-sketching or much planning, just a vision. Her earlier work consists of figures, especially women. Recently, she has included abstracted landscapes as subject, handled in an emotional way. She currently lives in Oakland, California and exhibits her work in the San Francisco Bay Area and across the nation.

SQUEAK CARNWATH (b. 1947)
Squeak Carnwath was born in Abington, Pennsylvania and received her MFA from the California School of Arts and Crafts in 1977. She draws upon the philosophical and mundane experiences of daily life in her paintings and prints, which are identified by lush fields of color combined with text, patterns, and identifiable images. She has described herself as a "painting chauvinist" due to an abiding preference for that medium. She is also an accomplished printmaker and has created sophisticated Jacquard tapestries, artist books, and mixed media works in addition to her oil and alkyd works on canvas. She taught at UC Berkeley from 1982 to 2010 where she is a professor emeritus. Her work can be found in museums and private collections throughout the United States and internationally.
VONN CUMMINGS SUMNER  (b.1976)

Vonn Cummings Sumner was born in Palo Alto, California and attended UC Davis where he earned both a bachelor’s degree and an MFA in painting. While at UC Davis, he worked closely with Wayne Thiebaud both as a student and teaching assistant. Upon graduating in 2000, he moved to New York City where he painted and worked in museums. In 2003, he relocated to Los Angeles and co-founded the Los Angeles-based group of artists called Pharmak who from 2004 to 2009 operated a non-profit exhibit space in the Historic Bank District of Downtown Los Angeles. Although he often depicts spaces and buildings in his paintings, he is known for his metaphorical figurative painting and use of a muted color palette. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally since 1997.
DAVID GILHOOLY  
(1943-2013)
David Gilhooly was born in Auburn, California and graduated from UC Davis with a bachelor’s degree in 1965 and a master’s degree in 1967. He was a student in the first ceramic class taught by Robert Arneson and later became his assistant. He left UC Davis for a semester to become Manuel Neri’s assistant and started experimenting with other media including wood, fur, and plexiglass. Together with and alongside Arneson, Peter Vandenberge, Maragret Dodd and others, he created ceramic pieces that were later referred to as the Funk Ceramic Movement of the San Francisco Bay Area. His playful ceramic animals and work led to the anti-functional emphasis of the Funk Art Movement. Gilhooly’s work can be found in public collections throughout the United States and in the Netherlands.

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WALTER RUSSELL  (1917-1963)

Walter Russell was born in Boston and left school at age nine to work. While working, he put himself through the Massachusetts Normal Art School where he interrupted his fourth year to spend three months in Paris at the Academie Julian. Later he moved from Boston to New York, where he proved himself as a successful illustrator, child portrait painter, writer and builder. At age 56 he turned to sculpture and fashioned portrait busts of Thomas Edison, General MacArthur, John Philip Sousa, Ossip Gabrilowitsch, Charles Goodyear, and others. He won the commissions for the Mark Twain Memorial (1934) and for President Franklin D. Roosevelt's The Four Freedoms Memorial (1943). The New York Herald Tribune referred to Russell as “the modern Leonardo,” a Renaissance man for the 20th century, because of his artistic abilities and scientific knowledge. His sculpture of Mark Twain can be seen in the foyer before you enter the Nelle U. Branch Reading Room.
WAYNE THIEBAUD  
(b.1920)
Wayne Thiebaud was born in 1920 and grew up in Long Beach, California. He earned a bachelor’s degree and then a master’s degree from California State University, Sacramento. In 1960, he became an assistant professor at UC Davis and taught for nearly 40 years. On a leave of absence in 1956-57, he spent time in New York City, where he became friends with Elaine and Willem de Kooning. He was influenced by them and other abstractionist artists as well as proto-pop artists Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns. In 1962, Thiebaud’s work was alongside Roy Lichtenstein, Andy Warhol, and Jim Dine in the historically important “New Paintings of Common Objects” exhibition curated by Walter Hopps at the Pasadena Art Museum. This exhibit is considered one of the first Pop Art exhibits in the United States. Thiebaud is adverse to labels such as “fine art” versus “commercial art” and has described himself as “just an old-fashioned painter.” He was presented the National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 1994, received a Lifetime Achievement Award for art from the American Academy of Design in 2001, and was honored with the California Art Award in 2013 for his role in raising the prominence of California art internationally.