

Wayne Thiebaud

Homecoming

OCTOBER 10, 2010 TO NOVEMBER 28, 2010



This exhibition celebrates Sacramento's most famous artist, Wayne Thiebaud, as he begins his 90th year. It is, both for the artist and the Crocker Art Museum, a homecoming, as Thiebaud held his first one-artist exhibition at the Crocker in 1951. This exhibition showcases early works to paintings fresh from the easel.

Like many artists of his generation, Thiebaud began his career as a commercial artist. He began his formal training at San Jose State University before moving to Sacramento in the early 1950s for graduate study at (then) Sacramento State College. He taught at Sacramento City College for nine years and in 1960 joined the art department at the University of California, Davis; he is now professor emeritus.

Thiebaud took a break from teaching in 1956–57, at which time he worked on Madison Avenue in New York City. There, he became acquainted with Elaine and Willem de Kooning, Philip Pearlstein, and other art luminaries. His career was forever changed in 1962 when the Allan Stone Gallery opened a solo exhibition of his still lifes. The show inspired the moniker “The Slice-of-Cake School.”

In *Wayne Thiebaud: Homecoming*, the artist's iconic and much-celebrated edibles are included alongside the paintings and drawings that showcase Thiebaud's skill in rendering the human figure and the Californian landscape. Many of the people depicted in this exhibition are local personalities, just as many of the landscapes depict regional river-delta views. Other landscapes feature cityscapes from San Francisco and beach scenes from Southern California.

No matter the subject, Thiebaud's paintings uniformly attest to the artist's ability to sensuously manipulate pigment and capture clear light and vibrant color. It is this technical virtuosity, along with the artist's tongue-in-cheek humor and ability to capture the realities of our place and time, that has helped to make Thiebaud a uniquely American painter.

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