

## Professor Thiebaud's 40-year legacy at UC Davis: Fact Sheet

### **WAYNE THIEBAUD (1920-2021)**

Wayne Thiebaud was born November 15, 1920, in Mesa, Arizona, and grew up in Long Beach, California. He died on Dec. 25, 2021, at his Sacramento home.

### **UC DAVIS YEARS**

Professor Emeritus Thiebaud joined the UC Davis Art Department in 1960 and retired in 1990. On the faculty for 30 years, he continued to teach on an unpaid basis until 2002. During his 42 years of teaching at UC Davis, Thiebaud's contributions as artist and teacher helped to shape the university.

### **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- Chancellor's Lifetime Achievement Award for Innovation (2016)
- UC Davis Medal (2009); the university's highest honor
- UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement (1988)

### **TEACHER AND MENTOR**

Nothing has been more important to Thiebaud than his role as a teacher. He has influenced and inspired hundreds of students over the years, including many who went on to become accomplished artists themselves. Bruce Nauman served as a teaching assistant to Thiebaud while at UC Davis and has noted the importance of that experience, "he showed you how to pay attention to what you were doing, (and that is) a rare thing."

### **MANETTI SHREM MUSEUM CONNECTIONS**

#### **NURTURING THE DREAM**

Thiebaud has been one of the Manetti Shrem Museum's great champions. "A university museum will allow students to experience works of art first-hand in a way that is not possible with reproductions," he said in 2011 when Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem made their founding gift. "It is this kind of experience that is essential to the university's teaching mission."

#### **PAUL LEBARON THIEBAUD COLLECTION CLASSROOM**

It is reflective of the artist's commitment to teaching that the Thiebaud family named the seminar classroom in the museum "The Paul LeBaron Thiebaud Collection Classroom" in honor of his late son.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

- The Museum's 2016 opening exhibition, "Out Our Way," highlighted the work of 12 artists, including Thiebaud, who helped establish the school's reputation as a leading institution for artistic instruction. (Curated by Founding Director Rachel Teagle.)
- In 2018 the museum presented "Wayne Thiebaud: 1958-1968," the first exhibition to focus exclusively on a specific phase of Thiebaud's practice, reconsidering his early work and its influence on the trajectory of 20<sup>th</sup> century American painting. (Curated by Founding Director Rachel Teagle.)

- Running June 3-Nov. 12, 2021, the museum continued to explore the legacy and impact of the artist with “Wayne Thiebaud *Influencer: A New Generation*,” a forward-looking exhibition featuring 19 contemporary artists and former students. (Co-curated by Founding Director Rachel Teagle and Associate Curator Susie Kantor.)

#### **FINE ARTS COLLECTION**

- As of 2022, the Fine Arts Collection includes 114 works of art by Thiebaud (15 paintings, 34 drawings and 65 prints), including 107 he gave, and 7 given by other donors. This includes a recent gift made by the Wayne Thiebaud Foundation in 2021 of 24 new works. Thiebaud is the pre-eminent donor to the university’s Fine Arts Collection. He has given UC Davis 413 works of art, including 96 of his own works and 317 works of art by other artists.

#### **For more information**

Contact Communications Specialist Laura Compton: 530-304-9517, email [lcompton@ucdavis.edu](mailto:lcompton@ucdavis.edu).