

Drucie Saal Belman  
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## **Five Artists Who Changed California Art**

In California's Central Valley in the early 1960s, five artists came together on the faculty of UC Davis, making history by changing the path and perception of art in California forever.

**Wayne Thiebaud** is known for his sumptuous paintings of cakes and pies and iconic landscapes of both rural California and the hills of San Francisco. **Robert Arneson**, with humor and intelligence, played a critical role in the elevation of ceramics from craft to fine art. **William T. Wiley** brought a broad range of materials and an idiosyncratic style which included text and worldplay. **Roy de Forest** created richly textured, colored, fantastical worlds. **Manuel Neri** gave us rough, expressive plaster figures that intersected painting and sculpture, contemporary and historical.

Adverse to pretension and dedicated to not taking themselves too seriously, these professors built a department that generated energy and enthusiasm for the students, colleagues and themselves.

Perhaps the biggest accomplishment of the Davis/Bay Area artists at this time was the development of an alternative to New York, a regional art that spoke to and for Northern California and replaced the pretensions of the East Coast art world with an earthy, honest and vital local West Coast authenticity.

## BIO

Drucie Saal Belman is a Professor at Olli Berkeley and The Fromm Institute at USF. She has worked at Pace Gallery in both New York and Palo Alto, Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco and as a Guide at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, she has a broad knowledge of modern and contemporary art. Prior to moving to the Bay Area, Drucie worked at the Loft gallery in Paris and Hong Kong. She graduated Wellesley College with a major in Art History, going on to study Computer Design at the School of Visual Arts in New York.