

## **Drucie Belman** **The UC Davis Art Legends**

January 21, 2025

### **Wayne Thiebaud 1930-2021**

Trained as a commercial artist and uninterested in the histrionics surrounding Abstract Expressionism, Wayne Thiebaud painted the heartening subjects of life. His depictions of cakes, pastries, bowties, landscapes and other symbols of Americana show curiosity, sentimentality and a sumptuous view of our basic joys.

January 28, 2025

### **William T. Wiley 1937-2021**

William T. Wiley developed a distinctive style born of anti-consumerism and the competitive art world of the East Coast. His work combines humble materials, found objects, personal symbols, enigmatic texts, and references to art history, popular culture, and current events.

February 4, 2025

### **Robert Arneson 1930-1992**

At UC Davis, Robert Arneson started the first ceramics program in the country, elevating the medium to an art in its own right. Arneson frequently turned to self-portraiture to examine his relationship with the world, expressing serious thought and difficult emotional content through humor.

February 11, 2025

### **Manuel Neri 1930-2021**

Manuel Neri devoted his career to creating life-sized figurative sculptures, taking the human form as a "blank canvas." His sculptures, often painted and usually of women, evoked classical statues while updating them for the 20th century. Neri reached for something unwavering and ancient: the magic and power of the human form.

February 18, 2025

### **Roy De Forest 1930-2007**

Roy De Forest's work is known for its quirky and comical fantasy filled with bright colors and creatures, most commonly dogs. De Forest wanted to create inventive, quirky, comical, and crowded art, filled with texturized, hallucinogenic colors. His trademark elements are dots, placed randomly in his work, defying the traditional form of painting that focuses on subject and composition.

February 25, 2025

## **The Students of Legends**

Bruce Nauman, Deborah Butterfield and David Gilhooly were a few of the artists who made their mark after graduating from the UC Davis Studio Art Program. Their teachers' refusal to conform to the whims of the art world, allowed their students to be free to explore and experiment without conventions.

**Bruce Nauman** (1940-present) is one of the most prominent and versatile American artists to emerge in the 1960s. His innovative and provocative ideas are expressed in a wide range of media and materials, most often sculpture and video

**Deborah Butterfield** (1949-present) is known for her sculptures of horses made from found objects and natural materials, such as wood and recycled metal. Butterfield's horses can express complex, almost human, emotions.

**David Gilhooly** (1942-2013) created clay objects that are satirical takes on contemporary life. His work is fanciful and playful; Gilhooly is famous for his series of ceramic frogs called *FrogWorld*, as well as ceramic food, planets, and other creatures.