



AHS 191— CRN 72276

CALIFORNIA MODERN ART

This land is not merely a testing ground, it is also a forcing ground, a place where ideas, practices and customs must prove their worth or be discarded.
—Carey McWilliams

This course explores California visual expression from roughly 1900 to present, with critical attention to the development of a purportedly unique “California art.” But is there such a thing? If so, what does it look like and, equally important, why? In an effort to understand the role of art in shaping the image—and idea—of California, we will consider artists such as the California Impressionists, Stanton Macdonald Wright, David Siqueiros, Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams, Wallace Berman, David Hockney, Judy Chicago, Noah Purifoy, Frank Romero and others, as well as contributions to a broader visual and material culture by figures including Greene and Greene, Simon Rodia, Walt Disney, Ray and Charles Eames and urban graffitists. Key themes for the course include: issues of mobility and nativity, tensions of class, gender, race and ethnicity, landscape and the built environment, intersections of art and technology, and the place of California in an increasingly globalized and multiplistic world.

Professor Jason Weems

Monday and Wednesday, 9:10am–12:00pm, ARTS 335

For more information on the Department of the History of Art, visit: <http://arthistory.ucr.edu>
Above: Enrique Chagoya, *When Paradise Arrived*, 1989