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Photograph by Wayne McCall, 1977



David Park, *Three Women*, 1957. Oil on canvas. Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Gift of Mrs. K. W. Tremaine in honor of Mr. Paul Mills' appointment as Director of the Santa Barbara Museum of Art

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art Remembers Its Former Leader

A Tribute to Paul Mills: A Life in Art Remembered

July 16 – October 2, 2005

July 7, 2005 - From 1970 to 1982 Paul Mills led the Santa Barbara Museum of Art during a period of dramatic growth of collections, programs and gifts. Now, nearly a year after his passing, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art pays tribute to its former Director through an exhibition that honors and celebrates his life in art.

While Mills' influence is felt throughout the entire Museum today, the exhibition highlights key works added during his tenure. The selection includes David Park's *Three Women*, donated in honor of Paul Mills at the time of his appointment as Director. Also featured are works that Mills helped acquire for the Museum, including Christo's *The Pont Neuf, Wrapped* (Project for Paris) in 1980, *Miss Diamonds, Bar de la Lune, Montmartre* by Hungarian photographer Brassai, and *Dancing Krishna*, a thirteenth-century South Indian sculpture. Also on view is *The Buffalo Hunter*. Mills' essay about this early American painting, written in 1973, is being reprinted in conjunction with the exhibition.

Mills' twelve-year leadership of the Museum resulted in major institutional achievements, including the addition of the Alice Keck Park Wing completed in 1983. A flag designer and enthusiast, he spearheaded the well-known Santa Barbara Flag Project. He also directed a major American Revolution Bicentennial flag history and design exhibition, *New Glory*, presented in conjunction with the National Gallery of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the National Parks Service, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition program and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Active in Spanish and U.S. museum projects, Mills worked toward the exhibition of Spanish culture at the time of the settlement of California, *The Age of Carlos III*. In addition, he received recognition for his ongoing international efforts and numerous visits to Spain and Mexico, including an audience with King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia at Blair House, Washington. In 1978, he was awarded Bolsa de viaje under Article IV of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Spain and the United States, to negotiate terms of a proposed cooperative research project solicited jointly by (and later awarded to) the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Museo del Prado.

Mills' professional involvement in the art community extended far beyond the Museum walls. He acted as Secretary and Trustee of the Association of Art Museum Directors, and Commissioner for the County of Santa Barbara Art Commission, and sat on boards of various local and regional organizations.

Recently found were some of Mills' hand-written notes in response to a series of interview questions. The final question asked, "What is the value of having a permanent collection?" Mills' answer summarizes his entire philosophy - a passion for both the care of art and ability to make art accessible to the public.

The public is invited to an open house reception on Sunday, July 17 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm for the opening of *A Tribute to Paul Mills: A Life in Art Remembered*. Remarks will be given at 2:00 pm.

Also currently on view is *An Enduring Vision: 17th to 20th Century Japanese Painting from the Gitter-Yelen Collection* through July 17, and world-premiere exhibition *Garbo's Garbos* through August 21

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally-recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

**Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.
Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. Free every Sunday.
805.963.4364 www.sbma.net**