

6° of Wayne Thiebaud

Curators' Statement

This exhibition was inspired by the University Art Gallery's solo exhibition of Thiebaud's work last year.

What we found in the Turner Print Collection, and with a few loaned prints, the ability to demonstrate an important group of Northern California artists and their impact as faculty artists. *6° of Wayne Thiebaud* provides a context for understanding the creativity, divergent points of view, interconnectivity and in some instances, how an artist's vision changes over time.

Since most of this exhibition represents work done mid-20th century a sense of popular culture inspiration combined with a personal and distinctive aesthetic is apparent. Also evident will be tongue in cheek humor juxtaposed with consummate artistic skill. Often regional artist do not get recognized until there is critical mass of work to look at and some time has passed to evaluate its place in art history. I believe these artists have passed those markers.

The vision of this exhibition would not have been fully realized without the contribution of Turner Collection Manager Adria Crossen Davis's "family tree" in the spirit of Six Degrees of Separation, an idea that anyone can be connected by six steps or less. Similar to that is the concept of "a friend of a friend" that is demonstrated in this exhibition.

Central to this curatorial process is the contribution of Professor emeritus James McManus, an international scholar of Marcel Duchamp. He is also a noted authority on California Regional art movements.

Also thanks to Jacob Reid, student graphic designer, for his interpretation of the exhibition title and the "family tree."

Catherine Sullivan, Curator, Janet Turner Print Museum, CSU, Chico
Janet Turner Print Museum, CSU, Chico, Fall 2011