

Elmhurst College

prospect

Eye Openers

The Many Facets of a Rare Gem:
Elmhurst's Art Collection

Local Talent

From back in the day, nine portraits of the artists

Sandra Jorgensen took the portraits on these pages in the late 1970s. They depict nine key members of a group of artists called the Chicago Imagists. Jorgensen taught art at Elmhurst College for more than three decades, beginning in 1966. She helped build the remarkable collection in the Buehler Library which features works by each of the artists depicted here. The Elmhurst collection also includes paintings by Jorgensen herself, who died in 1999 at the age of 64. “Sandy lived life as if it were a college course,” says Mickey Poland, her friend since childhood. “She was the chronicler of our shared lives.” In these photographs, she chronicles with characteristic style and sensitivity a moment in the shared lives of an exceptional company of artists.

► Ed Paschke

Born and raised in Chicago, Ed Paschke (1939–2004) led a storied life. After earning his BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1961, he did a stint as a psychiatric aide, illustrated weapons manuals for the Army, and helped design a training map for Apollo astronauts. A lanky man with a courtly, self-deprecating manner, he gained international attention for his paintings, which often employed brilliant colors and images from newspapers, magazines, and television. “His paintings are like drugs, but in a good way,” says his best-known former student, Jeff Koons. “They are among the strongest physical images I’ve ever seen. They affect you neurologically.”

► **Ray Yoshida**

Ray Yoshida taught at the School of the Art Institute, where he inspired many of the city's most promising talents, including Roger Brown, Jim Nutt, and Gladys Nilsson. The Elmhurst collection includes two beautiful Yoshida paintings and a drawing. "As a painter and collagist he has his own distinctively funky sensibility," the critic Adam Baumgold wrote. "He clips fragmentary images from comic books and arranges them in neat but bizarrely suggestive rows." The result is "formally captivating, dreamily strange and comically absurd."



◀ **Gladys Nilsson**

Gladys Nilsson was not yet a teenager when she earned a scholarship to attend lectures and drawing classes at the School of the Art Institute. She also became fascinated with the treasures of the Field Museum; as a result, everything from Egyptian art to Australian Aboriginal bark painting has come to influence her art. Nilsson and her husband, fellow Imagist Jim Nutt, sometimes exhibit together.

► **Richard Loving**

One of Chicago's most accomplished painters Richard Loving has had a seminal influence on generations of painters as a professor at the School of the Art Institute. This spring, the Evanston Art Center presented a thirty-year review of his work. The exhibit's literature noted: "Loving's luminous, patterned works contain a spiritual symbolism that has created a singular voice whose art suggests a bridge between the two camps of painting to emerge in Chicago during the past forty years: Abstraction and Imagism."



“As a painter and collagist, Ray Yoshida has his own distinctively funky sensibility,” the critic Adam Baumgold wrote.



▲ **Ted Halkin**

An early Imagist and the former chair of Elmhurst’s art department, Ted Halkin is a significant figure in the history of the College and of Chicago art. In 1971, after Elmhurst received federal funds to acquire original art, Halkin selected the first ten pieces in the College’s collection. He went on to teach at his alma mater, the School of the Art Institute. Now in his eighties, he remains an active teacher and distinctive artist.