



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: December 17, 2024
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services Department
Director(s) 805-568-2467
Contact Info: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
805-568-3992

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation of Roland Petersen Paintings

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept the donation of a collection of three paintings by California artist Roland Petersen from the Living Trust of Roland Petersen.
- b) Determine that the above recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the action involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary:

This item is before the Board to accept a donation from The Living Trust of Roland Petersen (“Living Trust”) of three paintings (Attachment A: Checklist) by renowned California artist Roland Petersen. These paintings would be added to the collection of seven works by Roland Petersen that were previously donated to the County by the Living Trust.

The three paintings, “The Arabian Currents,” “Landing Fields and Cloud Patterns,” and “Woman on Horse,” reflect Central California’s landscapes and are in excellent condition. The Living Trust has

stipulated that the only condition of the gift is that the artwork may not be sold or used for fundraising purposes.

Staff recommends accepting the paintings, and the Arts Commission has voted unanimously to approve the addition to the County art collections. Due to the value of the art, the donation is subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Background:

In 2023, the Board voted to accept the donation of seven Roland Petersen paintings from the Living Trust. The donated works are currently on view in the County Administration Building, Santa Barbara City Hall, and the Elverhøj Museum of History and Art in Solvang. Following the positive community reception, the Living Trust has offered to donate three additional paintings to the County.

Petersen is considered one of California’s preeminent living artists. He was born in Denmark in 1926 and emigrated to the United States at a young age. A World War II veteran, Petersen played a prominent role in establishing the Postwar Bay Area Figurative Movement. His art has been exhibited internationally but is also recognized regionally for its cultural significance. In 1976, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art produced an exhibition and catalogue of his etchings.

A Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellow, Petersen helped to establish the first painting courses at the University of California Davis. His works have been acquired for the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Modern Art, Crocker Art Museum, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, and De Young Museum, among others.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – Checklist of Roland Petersen Paintings

Authored by:

Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture