



COL. JAMES H. JONES

**Col. James H. Jones Family Memorial Art Collection, in honor of his parents
Dee Roy and Mary M. Jones, and the History of Ink & Clay and its Endowment**

Lt. Colonel James H. Jones, a 1951 graduate of Cal Poly Pomona's College of Agriculture, began donating his vast collection of artworks to the University in 1962. His donations were made in honor of his parents, **Dee Roy and Mary M. Jones** —avid art collectors themselves— from whom he inherited not only the earliest part of his collection, but an appreciation and love of art, a dedication to supporting the visual arts, and a devoted collecting practice.

The Jones family collection contains prints, paintings, drawings and sculpture in clay, metal, and stone by twentieth century artists. Over the years, Col. Jones continually collected art, supported the efforts of collecting through the University's annual *Ink & Clay* exhibition, and donated works to the university until his passing in 2009. The Jones Memorial Collection also features his own purchased pieces from the earlier years of the on-going, prestigious *Ink & Clay* show. He also supported efforts in collecting digital art in his later years.

Jones began lending paintings from his private collection to the University in 1962. In 1964, he added a series of ink and clay pieces to his collection. In 1971, he founded the *Jones Collection*, which by 1981 had grown to well over 200 items. By the end of his life, the Jones collection included over 475 items. Upon his passing, he donated the remaining balance of his collection to the University and perpetually supports it through the Col. Jones Memorial Art Collection Endowment.

The Jones Collection contains over 300 artworks in a variety of important twentieth century styles including American Modernist, Dada, Surrealism, Pop Art, Abstract Expressionism, as well as California Modernist and the San Francisco school of Abstract Expressionism. Among the most notable works are watercolors by Arthur Dove, Dong Kingman, Millard Sheets, and Max Weber, prints by artists such as Richard Diebenkorn, Vasily Kandinsky, John Marin, Robert Motherwell, Pablo Picasso, Rene Magritte, Pierre Bonnard, Georges Rouault and Pierre Soulages, and ceramics by the Beatrice Wood.

Jones also funded the endowment to perpetuate the *Ink & Clay* competition and exhibit as an annual event, which is in its fifth decade of existence. The exhibition continually promotes the inclusion of art disciplines such as printmaking, ink drawing, ceramics, pottery making and clay sculpture by artists from throughout the United States. In the Post-Modern era (in the late 60s and 70s) these forms of artmaking were once considered to be "low art", "lesser", "artisanal" and/or "lower valued" art disciplines, and it was feared these media would not be properly revered over time as they should be, and be replaced by changing technology, digital reproduction and mass-produced object making, causing these artforms and techniques to be lost as time passed. Jones' and Cal Poly's continued investment in *Ink & Clay* as a recurrently celebrated exhibition, and through Jones' generous and thoughtful Ink & Clay Endowment, these artforms repeatedly continue to blossom at Cal Poly Pomona with its quality, diversity, and current-day relevance. Over time, thankfully, as the boundaries between different fine arts disciplines have been blurred, the "low art" skepticism has thankfully been debunked. As the fine arts industry has continuously thrived and evolved, re-embracing these artforms decade after decade, printmaking and ceramics have continued to evolve and grow as disciplines hand-in-hand with digital media and tech-based art and continue to be foundational in fine art studies.

About Donor Col. James H. Jones and his contributions to Cal Poly Pomona

As a young man, James "Jim" Jones attended UC Berkeley and received a Bachelor's Degree in 1941. After a stint in the Air Force, and his promotion to lieutenant colonel, Jones spent two years at the Voorhis Unit of Cal Poly and received a Bachelor's Degree from our College of Agriculture in citrus fruit production in 1951. He re-attended UC Berkeley for his second Master's Degree as a result.

As a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, and a resident in nearby Laguna Woods, he became an active member of the alumni Voorhis Park Committee at Cal Poly Pomona. Jones donated funds to endow a maintenance fund for the park. He also contributed toward a scholarship named after the former Voorhis administrator, Harold O. Wilson. Jones was a member of the University Educational Trust, President's Council, Endowment Society, Founders' Society and the Kellogg/Voorhis Heritage Society, in addition to co-founding the tradition known as *Ink & Clay* with the Kellogg University Art Gallery and Cal Poly Pomona, with subsequent endowments and fine art donations that were instrumental in establishing the University's Art Collection. He was a charter member and life member of the Cal Poly Pomona Friends of the Library and lifetime member of the Cal Poly Pomona Alumni Association. In 1997, he received the Distinguished Alumni Partner Award.

Alumnus and lifelong university supporter, Jones passed away on Oct. 26, 2009 at age 90, after a long illness. Jones was survived by his life partner, Bruce M. Jewett (who passed in 2020), and his older brother John, who had retired from Cal Poly Pomona as Director of Student Recruitment and Placement.

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MEMORIAL ART COLLECTION

**INK & CLAY
COLLECTION**

