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## Two Dynamic Women Celebrated in Painting Exhibitions at Bowers Museum this Summer: *Gayle Garner Roski and Ann Cullen*



Gayle Garner Roski



Ann Macomber Cullen

May 3, 2021 (Santa Ana, California) – The excitement at the Bowers Museum continues this summer with the opening of two exhibitions featuring remarkable paintings by local female collectors and artists in their own right: Gayle Garner Roski and Ann Cullen. Opening July 24, *The Gift of Los Angeles: Memories in Watercolor* by Gayle Garner Roski features forty-four watercolors of her experiences growing up and living in the City of Angels. *Artistic Legacy: The Ann and Bill Cullen Collection* opens August 28 with over 50 paintings by early 20th century California artists.

### ***The Gift of Los Angeles: Memories in Watercolor* by Gayle Garner Roski**



Artist, traveler, and storyteller all in one, Gayle Garner Roski (1941-2020) felt blessed every day to live in Los Angeles. With her passing in October of 2020, the Bowers Museum pays homage to her with *The Gift of Los Angeles: Memories in Watercolor* by Gayle Garner Roski. The exhibition is a look at her life, primarily through a group of forty-four watercolors of Los Angeles and some special sites just beyond its borders. The works featured in the exhibition are each vignettes of her experiences growing up and living in the City of Angels. Peopled by friends, family, and fellow Angelenos, the jubilant scenes tell intimate and relatable stories of the places that Gayle cherished most deeply.

Gayle's journey as an artist began in the 1990s after her children had grown up and left home. New to being an empty nester, she felt that she was disappearing into obsolescence. Rather than giving into despair, Gayle re-dedicated herself to watercolor painting and converted one of her children's bedrooms into a studio. She was initially inspired by the bow on

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a gift a friend had given her and painted a series of watercolors of ribbons. Within a year these works formed her first solo exhibition.

Since her debut, Gayle's watercolors have been exhibited countless more times, she painted *en plein air* on almost every corner of the earth, and even illustrated several books. All the while the theme of gifts stuck with her. Beginning in the year 2000, Gayle started painting the works on display in this exhibition to give back to a city that had always seemed to her to be the greatest gift imaginable.

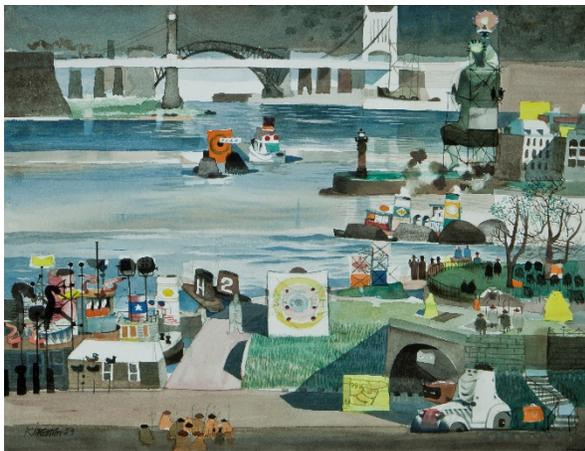
*The Gift of Los Angeles: Memories in Watercolor by Gayle Garner Roski* is organized by the Bowers Museum and curated by Jean Stern. Artworks are on loan from the Roski Family.

[Click here](#) for more information. #roskiatbowers

Image credit: Gayle Garner Roski, *The Stars Come Out – Grauman's Chinese Theatre*, watercolor. © Gayle Garner Roski Estate. All rights reserved.

### ***Artistic Legacy: The Ann and Bill Cullen Collection***

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*Artistic Legacy: The Ann and Bill Cullen Collection* is an exhibition of 53 paintings and drawings from the estate of Ann Macomber Cullen, a famous actress and runway model and the wife of radio- and gameshow host Bill Cullen (“The Price is Right” and “The \$25,000 Pyramid”). Herself an avid artist, Ann attended the University of Southern California as an art major and later furthered her studies at the prestigious Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles (now the California Institute of the Arts).

Her passion seemed to follow her wherever she went. While she and her husband lived in New York City in the 1960s, she befriended Dong Kingman, a master of the California Watercolor Style which first originated at Chouinard. Unlike earlier watercolors which were often sketched out beforehand, these works were painted freehand—often *en plein air* rather than in a studio. They depicted everyday scenes in bold, colorful strokes which pushed the medium to its limits. Until she passed in 2018, she continued to collect and get to know many of the most prominent artists of the movement, including Rex Brandt, Emil Kosa Jr., and Millard Sheets.

Her passion seemed to follow her wherever she went. While she and her husband lived in New York

All the while, Ann Cullen practiced and honed her own talent for painting. This is the first exhibition that showcases a small selection of her paintings and drawings along with the major body of works that she spent her life collecting.

*Artistic Legacy: The Ann and Bill Cullen Collection* is organized by the Bowers Museum and curated by Jean Stern. Support for this exhibition has been generously provided by the Bowers California Arts Council and Chemers Gallery.

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[Click here](#) for more information. #cullenatbowers

Image credit: *View from Ann's Window*, 1959; Dong Kingman (American, 1911 - 2000); New York City, New York; Watercolor on paper; 22 1/2 x 29 1/2 in. 2018.6.12; Ann and Bill Cullen Memorial Collection.

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