

# SUMMER/FALL 2023 EXHIBITIONS



## Maurice Sendak: 60 Years of Wild Things

July 29, 2023 to January 7, 2024

In 1963, author and illustrator Maurice Sendak (1928-2012) created one of the most beloved children's books of all time—*Where the Wild Things Are*. Sixty years after its publication, the Fresno Art Museum is proud to present an exhibition of the work of one of the most influential children's authors and illustrators of the 20th century.

This exhibition of works by Sendak includes concept sketches, illustrations, and works on paper. Showcased are highlights from his career and the diverse art forms for which he became legendary from children's literature to animation, set design for opera and theater, and films. At the heart of this exhibition are the images from the beloved book *Where the Wild Things Are*.

The works included in this exhibition were carefully selected from private collections and friends of the artist to provide an in-depth and intimate survey of Sendak's career and his enduring legacy.

Exhibition Curator: Opar, Inc. and Steve Brezzo

Support for this exhibition from the Bonner Family Foundation

Image created by Sanking Saephan, 2023, after Maurice Sendak

## The Magic & Flair of Mary Blair

July 29, 2023 to January 7, 2024

Mary Blair (1911-1978) is known to Disney fans worldwide as one of Walt Disney's favorite artists. A designer, illustrator, and colorist, Blair's concepts set the tone for such iconic animated films as *Dumbo* (1941), *The Three Caballeros* (1945), *So Dear to My Heart* (1948), *Cinderella* (1950), *Alice in Wonderland* (1951), and *Peter Pan* (1953), among others. Though Blair initially joined Disney reluctantly (she considered herself foremost a painter), she would rise to become the most influential concept artist at the studio during the mid-20th century. The exhibition of 26 works of art includes concept art for her many Disney animation film projects as well as four rare concept pieces Blair created in the development of the attraction *It's a Small World* which debuted at the 1964 New York World's Fair and later moved to Disneyland.



Organized by the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University, with works from the Hilbert Collection, Curated by Mary Platt

Image: Portrait of Disney Artist and Animator Mary Blair, from Michael Netzer's *Portraits of the Creators Sketchbook*, 2012, © Michael Netzer, DC & Marvel artist

# FAM FRESNO ART MUSEUM

## Martha Casanave

*The Council of 100 Distinguished Woman Artist for 2023  
Imaginings: Portraits & False Flags*

July 29, 2023 to January 7, 2024

American photographer Martha Casanave (b. 1946) is one of the few women photographers in a male-dominated regional artistic circle that included Ansel Adams and Brett Weston. Her dedication to her career and her contributions to the field of photography were strong factors in the Council of 100 choosing to honor her as its 34th recipient of this award.



Casanave situates the subjects of her portraits in their respective environments in a way that reveals aspects of their character and interests. With her degree in Russian Language and Literature, Casanave's photographs from the USSR raise our consciousness by revealing either the lives of underground artists or the social graces experienced in interactions with the general populace. In all of her work, Casanave experiments with traditional photographic techniques and alternative processes and does not work with digital images.

Exhibition Curator: Michele Ellis Pracy, FAM Executive Director & Chief Curator

Images: Martha Casanave, *Beaumont Newhall and Ansel Adams, Carmel Highlands*, 1980 and *Tea Time, Leningrad*, 1985, Digital print, 30" x 40", Courtesy of the Artist

## Art of the Word: Growing an Artist The Story of a Landscaper & His Son Featuring the illustrations of John Parra

July 29, 2023 to June 25, 2024

This year's exhibition curated especially for our Valley children features the work of artist and illustrator John Parra (b. 1972) who wrote and illustrated an autobiographical book based on his childhood experiences working with his dad, a landscaper on California's Central Coast. The resulting children's book, *Growing an Artist: The Story of a Landscaper and His Son* was just published in 2022 by Simon & Schuster and has already received many accolades from reviewers, critics, and fans. FAM is showing all the original illustrations from Parra's book.



Exhibition Curator: Susan Yost Filgate, FAM Education Director  
Support for this exhibition from The Foundation@FCOE

Image: John Parra, cover art for *Growing an Artist: The Story of a Landscaper and His Son*, Acrylic on illustration board, 14 1/4" x 14 1/4", © 2022 John Parra

General Exhibition Season Support: David and MaryAnne Esajian

For more information on the exhibitions, go to  
[www.fresnoartmuseum.org/up](http://www.fresnoartmuseum.org/up)

**Yes! I would like to support the Fresno Art Museum by underwriting the exhibition(s) at the level I have indicated below:**

- ☐ General support for the entire Summer/Fall 2023 exhibition season
- ☐ *Maurice Sendak: 60 Years of Wild Things*
- ☐ *The Magic & Flair of Mary Blair*
- ☐ *Art of the Word: Growing an Artist, The Story of a Landscaper & His Son*, featuring the illustrations of John Parra
- ☐ *Martha Casanave, Imaginings: Portraits & False Flags*, The Council of 100 Distinguished Woman Artist for 2023

**Underwriting levels:**

☐ \$5,000   ☐ \$2,500   ☐ \$1,000   ☐ \$500   ☐ \$250   Other: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Preferred telephone: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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**Payment Method**

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***You can also support the upcoming exhibitions using PayPal on the Fresno Art Museum website.***

Credit card number: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name on credit card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(required for credit/debit card payment)

**Donors at the \$1,000 level and above will have their name on the exhibition sponsor wall and on the Museum's website, as well as on the full-color exhibitions flyer and the weekly e-news which are both widely distributed. Please indicate below how you would like your name to appear:**

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☐ I would like to be listed anonymously.

***Thank you!***

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