

**Roger Brown: Calif. USA**

June 20 – October 3, 2010

**Exhibition Reception:**

Sunday, August 29, 3-5 pm

**More events listed on the website.**

**Gallery 4****Gallery Hours:**

Monday – Thursday: 10am – 8pm

Friday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 12pm – 5pm



(left) Roger Brown, *Virtual Still Life #17 Cups With Handles And Desert Landscape*, 1995, oil on canvas, mixed media, 25 × 25 1/2 × 9 inches, SAIC/Roger Brown Estate Painting Collection; (right) Roger Brown, *Virtual Still Life #18 Cups Without Handles And Desert Landscape*, 1995, oil on canvas, mixed media, 25 × 25 1/2 × 9 inches, SAIC/Roger Brown Estate Painting Collection

Chicago, IL (May 2010)— *Roger Brown: Calif. USA*, curated by Nicholas Lowe and on view at the Hyde Park Art Center from June 20 to October 3, 2010, showcases the rare artwork and collections of the famed Chicago Imagist. The exhibition explores artist Roger Brown's process of collecting and arranging hundreds of domestic objects in his La Conchita, California home and studio. For the first time, visitors to the exhibition can experience Brown's three-dimensional *Virtual Still Life* paintings shown alongside the extraordinary collections from which they evolved.

Roger Brown was a collector as much as he was an artist. The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) alumnus and Hyde Park Art Center-exhibited artist filled his home and studio in La Conchita, California with hundreds of domestic objects such as vernacular ceramics, southwestern knickknacks, and pop culture ephemera. All were meticulously arranged, and occasionally they were incorporated into his artwork. *Calif. USA* explores Brown's process of collecting and arranging as distilled into his *Virtual Still Life* series—paintings turned three-dimensional, with ceramics on shelves in the foreground. Exhibited together for the first time, these extraordinary paintings and arrangements (or tableaux) of objects reference and echo each other, as combined reflections on landscape, heritage, religion, history, life, and death. This is a project of the Roger Brown Study Collection of the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Hyde Park Art Center.

The curator of the exhibition, Nicholas Lowe, is an interdisciplinary artist and currently Chair and Associate Professor in the department of Arts, Administration and Policy at SAIC. Lowe puts Brown's collections into context: "The objects function as support and a kind of anchor to Brown's creative thinking. They are as much an expression of his inner life as his artworks must have been. But while clearly they were not intended to be read as art, they possess a complex set of sensibilities that are like any domestic arrangement of objects in that they are actually quite humble in their aspirations."

Born in Alabama, **Roger Brown** (1941-1997) moved to Chicago in 1962 where he attended SAIC and earned a BFA (1968) and an MFA (1970). Works by Brown and fellow students were recognized by (then) Executive Director of the HPAC, Don Baum, who organized spirited "Chicago School" exhibitions from 1966 to 1971. Brown's work was included in several exhibitions at HPAC, including *False Image* (1968). From these early HPAC shows, a loosely associated group of artists became known as Chicago Imagists, a term coined by art critic Franz Schulz (1972). He had numerous solo and group exhibitions in the U.S. and abroad. Traveling retrospectives of his paintings and sculptures have been organized by the Montgomery Museum (1980) and the Hirshhorn (1987). His work is in the collections of the Art Institute of Chicago, Metropolitan Museum, Whitney Museum, Museum of Modern Art, Museum of Contemporary Art/ Chicago, National Museum of American Art, Scottish National Gallery, Museum Boymans, Rotterdam, and many others.

*Roger Brown: Calif. U.S.A.* will be on view from June 20 until October 3, 2010, at the Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60615; 773.324.5520 and [www.hydeparkart.org](http://www.hydeparkart.org). Exhibitions are always free and open to the public.

The Hyde Park Art Center is a not-for-profit organization that presents innovative exhibitions, primarily work by Chicago-area artists, and educational programs in the visual arts for children and adults of diverse backgrounds. The Center is funded in part by Alphawood Foundation; The Andy Warhol Foundation for Visual Arts; The Chicago Community Trust; a City Arts III grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and the Illinois Arts Council; Creative New Zealand; Harper Court Arts Council; Illinois Arts Council, a state agency; The Irving Harris Foundation; JPMorgan Chase Foundation; The Lloyd A. Fry Foundation; The Leo S. Guthman Fund; The Mayer and Morris Kaplan Family Foundation; The MacArthur Fund for Arts and Culture at Prince; The Orbit Fund; Polk Bros. Foundation; The Clinton Family Fund; The Wallace Foundation; and the generosity of its members and friends.

A leader in educating artists, designers, and scholars since 1866, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) offers nationally accredited undergraduate, graduate, and post-baccalaureate programs to nearly 3,200 students from across the globe. Located in the heart of Chicago, SAIC's educational philosophy is built upon an interdisciplinary approach to art and design, giving students unparalleled opportunities to develop their creative and critical abilities, while working with renowned faculty who include many of the leading practitioners in their fields. SAIC's resources include the Art Institute of Chicago and its new Modern Wing; numerous special collections and programming venues provide students with exceptional exhibitions, screenings, lectures, and performances. For more information, please visit [www.saic.edu](http://www.saic.edu)