This exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of Martha Longenecker-Roth, and her historic impact on the visual arts in San Diego and beyond. Martha's passionate commitment to meaningful cross-cultural exchange, long before it became widely fashion-able, led her to found the Mingei Art Museum and established its permanent home in San Diego's Balboa Park. The stated mission of the museum–to bring the "art of the world, art of the people" to everyone–came from Martha's own lived experience.

The name of the museum Mingei was taken from a word coined by the Japanese scholar and artist Soetsu Yanagi, with whom Martha studied when she was pursuing her MFA in painting at the Claremont Graduate School. The word, which combines the 'Min' Japanese term for 'all people', with 'Gei', the word for 'art,' was used by Yanagi to explain the value and promote the preservation and practices of traditional craftwork in Japan. The Mingei ethos and aesthetic proposed by Yanagi, resonated deeply with Martha and led her to change the direction of her artistic practice. Choosing to pursue training in the craft of ceramics, she traveled to Japan to study with the renowned potter, Shoji Hamada, a major figure within the Mingei movement. He instructed Martha in traditional ceramic production techniques and stressed that beauty can be found in the ordinary, the cornerstone of Mingei philosophy.

Adopting the Mingei philosophy and techniques as the cornerstone of her own art and life, Martha became an exemplar of cross-cultural practice in the art of ceramics. This exhibit, inspired by old photographs found in Martha's belongings, is our homage to Martha's own aesthetic values and is built to resemble a previous showing of her ceramics. Not only is this exhibit a tribute to her artistic talents as an artist but also her skills as a master curator. Wherein, it is because of these, her fervent advocacy of cross-cultural art and practices and the excellence of her own Mingei ceramics, that she was recognized by the Emperor of Japan who in 2003 awarded her the esteemed Order of the Rising Sun.

The Visual Arts Department at UC San Diego was chosen for the Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence program because of its historic commitment to the cross-cultural exchange, the diversity of artistic practices, and the broadening of the scope and impact of art that Martha held so dear. The Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence endowment will enable the Department to bring an artist to campus every year whose commitment to art education, material and craft, resonates with the ethics of Martha's life and career from her beginning as a painter to her fine art ceramics, and her work as a museum founder and director. We are honored and grateful to be given this opportunity to support significant artists who will share with our students' practices and ideals that engage with the kind of principles that were so important to Martha.

Through the Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence program, the vision of art, culture and the world so dear to Martha will make a lasting impact on interdisciplinary art education in the Visual Arts Department at UC San Diego. As a lifelong learner, Martha Longenecker-Roth regularly attended exhibitions and lectures organized by and for UC San Diego faculty and students. She was fascinated by technology new and old, and believed in the importance of interdisciplinary education. Thus, it is our honor to inaugurate the residency fellowship program of the Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence Endowment which will bring to campus artists whose practices are grounded in an understanding of the power of art to connect diverse peoples. It is toward this commitment to diverse traditions and cultural interconnectedness that the Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence program is founded and inspired through the impact made to the visual arts through the life of Martha Longenecker-Roth.



**Artists in Residence**

Anna Sew Hoy (2018)
Diedrick Brackens (2019)
Beatriz Cortez (2021)
Cannupa Hanska Luger (2022)
Ceres Madoo (2023)
Tanya Aguiñiga (2024)
iris yirei hu (2025) Kelly Akashi (2026)

Curated by Monique van Genderen

# Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence

This exhibition celebrates the life and legacy of Martha Longenecker-Roth, an artist who worked in ceramics and design and founded the Mingei International Museum in San Diego's Balboa Park. She was committed to promoting art for the many, rather than the few, and to breaking down the barriers between fine arts, craft, and folk art.

The Longenecker-Roth Artist in Residence Endowment was established in 2016 to extend Martha Longenecker-Roth's legacy as an artist and educator. In the spirit of her historic impact on the visual arts in both local and global communities, this endowment brings to the Department of Visual Arts at UC San Diego artists of international stature who inspire our students to broaden the scope, appeal, and range of art and enliven our art community through exchange with the faculty, local artists, and campus and community audiences.

Donations to the Martha Longenecker-Roth Distinguished Artist in Residence Endowment (F-86Q06A) can be made online at giveto.ucsd.edu.



Martha Longenecker-Roth Ceramics on View in the Exhibition.









Longenecker-Roth
Artist in Residence

UC San Diego
SCHOOL OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
Department of Visual Arts



Longenecker-Roth
Artist in Residence