

Carl Sammons Exhibit to Light Up Hearst Gallery

By Andrea A. Firth



Rheem Estate by Carl Sammons

Photo provided

The works of Bay Area landscape and plein air painter Carl Sammons will soon adorn the walls of the Hearst Art Gallery located on the campus of Saint Mary's College in Moraga. Sammons, a California impressionist, worked in oil and pastels to recreate the remarkable beauty he found as he traveled throughout northern California and beyond.

"With our last several historical exhibits, we have established a tradition of trying to present artists that have been under-appreciated or under-recognized," explains Julie Armistead, Collections Manager and Registrar for the Hearst Art Gallery. "[With artists like Sammons] we try to make more of place and name for the artist who has not been seen by the public as much," she adds.

Born in Nebraska in the late 1800's, Sammons made his way West in the 1920's and spent the remainder of his career documenting the California landscape on his canvas. Among his favorite painting locations were the Monterey Peninsula, the Russian River, and Yosemite. Although he was based in Oakland when not

traveling, Sammons has strong ties to Moraga where his wife lived (at Moraga Royale) until she was at least one hundred years of age according to Armistead.

Moraga developer, Donald Rheem, was a friend and patron of Sammons' work, and the Hearst Exhibit includes a painting of the Rheem Estate (now the Hacienda) that Sammons was commissioned to do. "Among the family's papers is a letter from Donald Rheem to Sammons asking him to paint the painting," explains Armistead. Usually on display at the Hacienda, the painting has been loaned to the Gallery for the exhibit.

The exhibit entitled Carl Sammons: California Impressionist Landscapes will run from July 12th through September 21st. A members-only lecture about the artist and his work will be held at the Gallery on July 13th at 1pm followed by a public reception the same day from 2 to 4 pm. Admission is \$3. The Gallery is open Wednesday through Sunday from 1 am to 4:30 pm. For information call (925) 631-4379.