

For Immediate Release: January 27, 2011

Contact: Morgan Kroll, Public Relations Associate, 310-443-7016, mkroll@hammer.ucla.edu

HEAT WAVES IN A SWAMP: THE PAINTINGS OF CHARLES BURCHFIELD **HONORED BY THE U.S. ART CRITICS ASSOCIATION**



Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield. On view at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles October 4, 2009 – January 3, 2010. Installation photo by Brian Forrest.

Los Angeles – The exhibition ***Heat Waves in a Swamp: The Paintings of Charles Burchfield***, will be awarded first place honors for “Best Show in a University Gallery” by the U.S. section of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA-USA) this spring. *Heat Waves in a Swamp* was organized by the Hammer Museum in collaboration with the Burchfield Penney Art Center, Buffalo State College and curated by artist **Robert Gober**. The exhibition, heralded as one of *The New Yorker’s* “Best Museum Shows in 2009” was the first major Burchfield exhibition to be mounted on the west coast and the first in New York for more than twenty years.

Arranged chronologically, the exhibition approached Burchfield’s work with a new perspective facilitated in part by the curatorial sensibilities of Robert Gober. Working with Hammer coordinating curator **Cynthia Burlingham**, Gober augmented a large selection of watercolors with the inclusion of extensive biographical material that continually infused Burchfield’s own thoughts about his work and artistic practice. The exhibition traveled to the **Burchfield Penney Art Center** and the **Whitney Museum of American Art** in New York in 2010.

The AICA awards ceremony, which has been held annually for more than 25 years, will take place at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art on **March 14, 2011 at 6 PM**. Awards will be presented by a group of distinguished artists and curators. The 26 winning projects of first and second places in twelve categories were nominated and voted on by 400 active members to honor outstanding exhibitions of the previous season (June 2009-June 2010). Awards will be presented by a group of distinguished curators and artists, the former winners of AICA Awards, among them Chuck Close, Christo, and Martin Puryear.

This year's Nominating Committee included: Eleanor Heartney (Chair), Marek Bartelik (AICA-USA President), Rachel Wolff (AICA-USA Vice-President), Barbara MacAdam (AICA-USA Board), Debra B. Balken, Michael Duncan, and Jeanne Claire van Ryzin.

ABOUT THE HAMMER MUSEUM

The Hammer Museum, a public arts unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, is dedicated to exploring the diversity of artistic expression through the ages. Its collections, exhibitions, and programs span the classic to the cutting-edge in art, architecture, and design, recognizing that artists play a crucial role in all aspects of culture and society.

Founded by Dr. Armand Hammer in 1990, the museum houses the Armand Hammer Collection of Old Master, Impressionist, and Post-Impressionist paintings and the Armand Hammer Daumier and Contemporaries Collection. Associated UCLA collections include the Grunwald Center for the Graphic Arts, comprising more than 45,000 prints, drawings, photographs, and artists' books from the Renaissance to the present; and the Franklin D. Murphy Sculpture Garden on the UCLA campus. The Hammer's newest collection, the Hammer Contemporary Collection, is led by works on paper, particularly drawings and photographs from 1960 to the present.

The Hammer presents major single-artist and thematic exhibitions of historical and contemporary art. It also presents approximately ten Hammer Projects exhibitions each year, providing international and local artists with a laboratory-like environment to create new work or to present existing work in a new context.

As a cultural center, the Hammer offers a diverse range of free public programs throughout the year, including lectures, readings, symposia, film screenings, and music performances. The Hammer's Billy Wilder Theater houses these widely acclaimed public programs and is the new home of the UCLA Film & Television Archive's renowned cinematheque.

HAMMER MUSEUM INFORMATION

For current program and exhibition information call **310-443-7000** or visit **www.hammer.ucla.edu**.

Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 11am – 7pm; Thursday, 11am – 9 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm; closed Mondays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission: \$10 for adults; \$5 for seniors (65+) and UCLA Alumni Association members; free for Museum members, students with identification, UCLA faculty/staff and visitors 17 and under. The Museum is free for everyone on Thursdays.

Location/Parking: The Hammer is located at 10899 Wilshire Boulevard, at Westwood Boulevard. Parking is available under the Museum. Rate is \$3 for three hours with Museum validation.

Hammer Museum Tours: For group tour reservations and information, call 310-443-7041.