

The Arts & Crafts Movement In California



By Kate Eagen Johnson

PASADENA, CALIF. — “Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul alike.” During the early Twentieth Century, when pioneer conservationist and writer John Muir expressed this sentiment, his fellow transplants to California William Bragdon (1884–1959) and William S. Rice (1873–1963) were celebrating the state’s scenic beauty and healthy, outdoor lifestyle in their art. A shared passion for California’s splendor permeates the companion exhibitions “Of Cottages

Diana L. Daniels pointed to a Japanese influence in the intensely dark background inspired by the prints of Ito Jakuchu (1716–1800). “Bert” refers to William S. Rice’s friend Bert Fitch, who ran a flower farm. “Bert’s Iris” by William S. Rice, circa 1920. Color block print, 12 by 9 inches.

Collection of Roberta Rice Treseder, ©Ellen Treseder Sexauer.
From “The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker.”



and Castles: The Art of California Faience” and “The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker.” Organized by the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento, these offerings are currently on view at the Pasadena Museum of California Art until April 3.

The exhibition on Bragdon’s company California Faience, the first mounted solely on this pottery, showcases more than 120 examples of tiles, vessels, lamps and figurines. The presentation on Rice includes more than 50 watercolors and block prints, some never before on display in the southern part of the state.

William S. Rice occasionally referenced traditional Japanese subject matter as seen here, but was far more interested in exploring Japanese technique. “Parrot & Butterfly” by William S. Rice, circa 1925. Color block print, 12 by 9 inches.

Collection of Roberta Rice Treseder, ©Ellen Treseder Sexauer.
From “The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker.”



Intriguingly, both shows are family affairs. Kirby William Brown, PhD, guest curator of the California Faience exhibition, is very proud to be named after his grandfather William Bragdon, a founding partner of the pottery. Marie-Clare Treseder Gorham, guest curator of the Rice exhibition, is the great-granddaughter of William S. Rice. William Braezeale, curator of European art, and Diana L. Daniels, curator of contemporary art, served as the organizing curators at the Crocker Museum for the California Faience and the William S. Rice exhibitions respectively...

(Continued on page 8C inside the E-Edition)

**Read Full Article
on Desktop**

**Read Full Article
on Mobile**



Vase with stylized moth by William Bragdon and Chauncey Thomas for California Faience, 1915–1922. Earthenware, 5 by 4¾ inches.

Collection of Richard Rasmussen. From “Of Cottages and Castles: The Art of California Faience.”

Browse More



**The 62nd
Winter Antiques Show**



**York Antiques
Show & Sale**



**American Beauty:
The American Folk Art
Collection Of Stephen
And Petra Levin, Part 1**