

# UAM CSULB NEWS

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM RECEIVES GIFT IN SUPPORT OF EXHIBITION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS

LONG BEACH—The University Art Museum has received a **\$100,000** gift from **Wesley and Mary Hampton**, in support of exhibition and education programs related to the Gordon F. Hampton Collection of mid-century American paintings and prints.

This gift will enable opportunities for scholarly investigation and present the Hampton collection at the museum annually over a period of five years. The funds will also support publishing an extensive fully illustrated catalogue about the collection. In the past year, the museum has made strategic changes to its Education department to better meet the needs of CSULB students, and Long Beach community schools and districts by increasing the budget for those programs and adding new staff. These exhibitions will provide valuable experiences for interns and students in the Museum Studies Program; present the arts to children in school-based and summer programs; and offer a meaningful installation for our community audiences. In recognition of this very generous gift, the University Art Museum will honor Wesley and Mary Hampton by naming this program The Wesley and Mary Hampton Exhibition and Education Program.

“This gift by Wesley and Mary Hampton has provided the UAM an important opportunity to showcase the collection and continue researching many of its important works,” stated UAM Director Christopher Scoates. “One of our most valuable resources is the Hampton Collection. This incredible body of work has been the inspiration for several exhibitions since 1999, but we have barely scratched the surface. The opportunities for scholarly investigation by our curatorial staff as well as the museum studies students are numerous. As part of our new programming strategy, we want to use the Hampton Collection for research and present the collection in new and exciting ways.”

The Gordon F. Hampton Collection is comprised of eighty-five works of art, with great strength in the area of second-generation Abstract Expressionist painting, including a seminal Adolph Gottlieb pictograph, seven major works spanning the entire breadth of Al Held's career, and five signature images by internationally recognized artist Lee Krasner. This fabulous collection, received on the occasion of the museum's 25th anniversary, came to the University Art Museum through the remarkable generosity of the Gordon Hampton Foundation and Mr. Hampton's children: Wesley G. Hampton, Roger K. Hampton, and Katharine Hampton Shenk. Gordon Hampton was a renowned Los Angeles antitrust attorney, an enlightened art patron, a philanthropist, and a pioneering partner in the law firm of Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP, where the collection is currently housed.

As a result of this very generous gift, the University Art Museum will present the first of five exhibitions titled *Grand Gestures: The Gordon F. Hampton Collection* on view June 28 – August 12, 2007. On June 28th at the opening reception of the exhibition the UAM will honor Wesley and Mary Hampton by naming a gallery in the museum for them. Director Christopher Scoates, and the Dean of the College of the Arts, Donald Para, will host this very special ceremony.