

# WATTS UP



Department of Cultural Affairs  
City of Los Angeles

## WILLIAM E. PAJAUD

Artist, Graphic Artist, Watercolorist, Arts Administrator

Join Us For

Libation Ceremony

Sunday, August 2, 2015

1:00 PM Watts Towers Arts Center Campus

*"My early association with the Watts Towers Arts Center began with my introduction by John Riddle to – then Director John Outterbridge. From that meeting came contact with most of the other Black artists in the community – Betye Saar, Noah Purifoy, Alonzo and Dale Davis – to mention a few.*

*Both my ethnic and cultural backgrounds serve as root sources of my work. The awareness and acceptance of humankind – universal, flowing life's awesome rhythms with dignity and pain, joy, poverty and often jubilation – cause me to paint. My primary need is to show my "gut reaction" to our efforts to cope with the cycles of life and death.*

*The aesthetic results of attempting to communicate these universal concepts are to me, almost*

*coincidental."*

Born in New Orleans in 1925 and raised in the South, William Pajaud's art takes inspiration from his experiences and observations as an African American in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a young teenager in Chattanooga, Tennessee he was seriously beaten for waving at a car with white passengers; later in Texas, he was thrashed with a rope for a similar "affront". Such experiences would influence his artistic career.

Though he received an art degree from Xavier University in New Orleans, Pajaud found it difficult to find a job when he relocated to with his family to Los Angeles. Working as a wrapper in a department store, a janitor in a hotel, a sewing machine repairer, and a postal worker, he eventually pursued another degree in advertising art and was later hired by Golden State Mutual Life

Insurance Company, one of the largest African American – owncompanies at the time.

Under the mandate of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company, Pajaud spent more than 20 years curating what would become one of the most important collections of African American art in the world. The collection included a total of 250 works by artists including Richmond Barthé, Romare Bearden, Elizabeth Catlett, Jacob Lawrence, Henry Ossawa Tanner, and Pajaud himself; it was auctioned off by the company in 2007.

In his spare time, Pajaud continued to work with drawings, prints, oils, and watercolors. The artist's powerful images attempt to address the reality of subjects, their community, traditions, and hardships.

August 3, 1925–June 16, 2015

*We are proud to have had Mr. Pajaud's support, leadership and love as*

Watts Towers Arts Center  
& Charles Mingus Youth  
Arts Center Campus  
1727 E. 107th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90002

Rosie Lee Hooks, Director  
213-847-4646  
Watts.towersl@lacity.org  
Wattstowers.org

Watts Towers Arts Center  
The First 54 Years 1961-2015  
Where Truth & Art Connect

Join us every Wednesday,  
Thursday & Friday  
9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.  
TAI CHI CHUAN  
with the  
School of Healing Martial Arts  
Daniel Hoover, Lead Instructor

### Ongoing Classes

- Visiting Schools Program  
Oct 2015– June 2016
- Neighborhood Schools  
Program-Ongoing
- Jazz Mentorship Program  
Ongoing
- Cal Arts Partnership Piano  
Program Oct 2015– Dec 2015  
January 2016-March 2016
- CalArts/Sony Pictures  
Animation Program  
Oct 2015-Dec 2015  
Jan 2016-June 2016
- Adult Special Needs Classes—  
Ongoing
- Preschool Intro. To Art—  
TBA
- Summer Arts Camp—July



# WATTS UP

## In Remembrance of Peggy Nichols, of Turtle Haven Tortoise and Turtle Rescue WTACC Garden Studio Turtle Pond Advisor 1927-2015

by Norma Haas Rosen

In 2008, the dream of a turtle pond as a garden focal point began on the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus with the donation of 4 adult red ear slider turtles in a large plastic tub. Peggy Nichols, then 81 years young, from her Turtle Haven Rescue was very happy to be our turtle pond advisor and assist in every detail of development.

Sadly, Ms. Peggy passed in March, yet her legacy lives on through her devotion to turtle and tortoise rescue on the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus in the Garden Studio Pond. Our visitors, students and neighbors are fascinated by the turtle residents living here.

Peggy was a passionate advocate for those with no voice, turtles and tortoises are some of the oldest creatures on earth and cousins to the dinosaurs. A no nonsense woman and a pioneer spirit, with her signature western garb, she will truly be missed. An inspiring role model, Ms. Peggy Nichols lived well beyond the borders of her own being to care for us all.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 50 Years And I Still Can't Breathe Remembering the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion and Now Rosie Lee Hooks & Michael Massenburg, Curators 30 Featured Artists

In conjunction with **Mayme Clayton Library and Museum**

Lalo Alcaraz Sharon Barnes April Bey Debby Brewer Kenneth Carnes  
Dale Davis George Evans Alden Kimbrough Toni Love  
Michael Massenburg Jay Messinger Rosalyn Myles Max Neufeldt  
Noni Olabisi Elliott Pinkney Greg Pitts Judson Powell Noah Purifoy Lilia Ramirez  
Betye Saar Ruth Saturensky Leon Saulter Arthur Secunda  
Toni Scott Joseph Sims Gordon Wagner

February 22, 2015 – February 28, 2016 Noah Purifoy Gallery & Charles Mingus Gallery

\*\*\*\*\*

### WATTS TOWERS ARTS CENTER CAMPUS Activities of the 50 Year Anniversary

**February 22, 2015 - "50 Years And I Still Can't Breathe"**  
**February 28, 2016 Remembering the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1965 Watts Rebellion and Now**  
Watts Towers Arts Center – Noah Purifoy Gallery

**July 1-24, 2015 Summer Arts Camp— In partnership with the School of Healing Martial Arts, Diavolo Dance Company, Horses in the Hood and LACMA**

**August 2, 2015 Libation Ceremony for William Etienne Pajaud**  
**1:00 p.m.** Watts Towers Arts Center, Noah Purifoy Gallery

# WATTS UP



## WATTS TOWERS ARTS CENTER CAMPUS Activities of the 50 Year Anniversary

August 5, 2015

**American Cinematheque Screening of and discussion panel on “I Build The Tower” Ed Landler and Brad Byer’s feature documentary, on the Watts Towers and their creator, Sabato Rodia.**

Panelist include: Ben Caldwell, Charles Dickson, Luisa Del Giudice, Gerald Horne, Edward Landler, Ojenke, Judson Powell and Rosie Lee Hooks, moderator.

7:30 p.m. Aero Theatre  
1328 Montana Avenue  
Santa Monica, CA 90403  
(323)461-2020 www.americancinematheque.com

August 15, 2015

**\*In Collaboration with Mayme Clayton Library and Museum  
“More Than A Riot: The Joyce Gaines Story”  
Film Screening and panel discussion led by King Carter  
Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum  
4130 Overland Avenue  
Culver City, CA 90230**

August 16, 2015

**Artist Talk: 50 Years And I Still Can’t Breathe  
Remembering the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Watts Rebellion and Now  
1:00 p.m. Watts Towers Arts Center ,Noah Purifoy Gallery**

August 23, 2015

**Bus Tour of Watts, led by Lindsay Hughes  
Bus Departs from Watts Towers Arts Center  
1727 E. 107<sup>th</sup> St.  
Los Angeles, CA 90002  
\* Call Mayme A. Clayton Library and Museum for time of activities  
(310) 202-1647**

September 26 & 27, 2015

**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival  
39<sup>th</sup> Annual Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival**

\*\*\*\*\*

### Ongoing Exhibitions

#### **94 Year Old Watts Towers Of Simon Rodia**

**Enjoy** this phenomenal cultural experience, outside of museum walls in Watts, as we take you on a fascinating voyage and discovery of art and beauty given to us by Italian immigrant, Simon Rodia. Experience the extraordinary exhibitions and museum education offered by its curator and guardian, the 54 year old Watts Towers Arts Center.

**Come** view the magnificent Towers and learn about the extraordinary man who created this renowned work of art. It took Simon Rodia 33 years to build the Watts Towers. Watch a 12-minute short film by William Hale in which Simon Rodia explains in his own words, why and how he created the Watts Towers.

**Watts Towers Guided Tour Hours:**  
Thursday & Friday 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Sunday 12:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.

#### **Dr. JOSEPH AND BOOTSIE HOWARD GALLERY**

The Watts Towers Arts Center is the home of International Ethnic Instrument Collection consisting of 144 primarily non-western instruments collected from around the world. This wonderful collection was donated by Dr. Joseph Howard to the Watts Towers Arts Center in 1989.

#### **PUBLIC ART ON CAMPUS**

Watts Towers · Mama Watts · Murals · Tiled Pots · Garden Tower Sculpture · Tiled Turtle Pond · Spirit Tree & Bench  
Hybrid · Tiled Light Poles · Remembrance

#### **PUBLIC ART IN NEIGHBORHOOD**

Welcome Sign to Watts at Central and Imperial Hwy · Wall at the Garcia Family House  
Wall at Señora Lupita’s House Madrigal Family House – in progress

#### **GARDEN STUDIO**

Growing vegetables & fruits · Herbs · California Native Plants · Visit Our Turtle Pond · Public Art  
See our tiling projects on campus and throughout our neighborhood



**A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO  
FRIENDS OF WATTS TOWERS ARTS CENTER**

Often we get so comfortable with those who are our foundation that we forget to single them out and say, Thanks.

We take this opportunity to do just that. The Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center are a major source of support to us.

Some of their funding contributions make it possible for us to:

- Produce our Annual Watts Towers Day of the Drum Festival and Simon Rodia Watts Towers Jazz Festival
- Underwrite Receptions for Openings of Exhibitions, Recitals, etc.
- Provide After School Snack Program
- Provide Supplies for Classes
- Offer One on One Tutoring
- Support Garden Studio AIR Program (Artist in Residence)
- Graphic Designer for Materials to Publicize and Market our Festivals i.e., Festival Art, Mailers, Study Guides, etc.
- Staff Enrichment
- And Much, Much, More

**WHEN YOU VISIT - HAVE A LOOK AT THE**  
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center Museum Store  
for one of a kind art pieces

Available now

The Watts Towers 50 Years Inspiring Art Commemorative Program 1959-2009  
***Sabato Rodia's Towers in Watts – Art, Migrations, Development*** Edited by Luisa Del Giudice, Ph. D

**ASK ABOUT OUR FUNDRAISING PROJECTS**

Heart of Watts Project    Watts Towers Project    Limited Edition Post Cards    Limited Edition T-shirts

**WISH LIST**

Sculpture of Simon Rodia · String Bass · Photo Archivist · Replacement of lost trees · Sculpture of Charles Mingus · Mural Restoration · Upgraded Sound System · Additional Staff · Rebuild Simon Rodia's House · Marquis for Watts Towers Arts Center & Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center Campus · Representation of the Watts Towers in the DWP Holiday Lights at Griffith Park

Note: Yamaha C7 Grand Piano donated by Wade & Jerri Childress in honor of their aunt Jari Havlena. Thank You

**THANK YOU**

For holding us up and preserving  
Watts Towers Arts Center & Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center Campus  
And supporting continuing arts education programming  
at the Watts Towers Arts Center Campus  
Mayor Eric Garcetti  
Councilmember Joe Buscaino  
City of Los Angeles City Council  
The Greater Watts Community  
Parents and Students  
Friends of Watts Towers Arts Center  
Watts Towers Community Action Council  
The Committee for Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts  
Mayor's Task Force on the Watts Towers Campus  
Watts/Century Latino Organization  
Parents of Watts Towers Arts Center Campus  
Staff of the Watts Towers Arts Center & the Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center Campus  
Artists and musicians  
Watts Towers Common Ground Initiative  
El Torito Market  
Aquabiz  
Local, national and international visitors to the Watts Campus  
And to the thousands of others who continue to add their voices  
to save this essential, 54 year old Arts and Museum Education Institution and Community Arts Center!

**UPDATE**

We are extremely grateful to our Support Groups for generating so much support for our Programs, Exhibitions, Events and on-going operations. We continue to rely on the support of so many through letters, emails and word of mouth concerning the importance of our work to the Community, for the City of Los Angeles and with our international visitors.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Gerald Wilson, 1918-2014    Harold Hambrick, 1943-2014    Mrs. Margarita Pichardo, 1926-2014  
Zane Musa, 1979-2015    Peggy Nichols, 1927-2015    William Pajaud, 1925-2015