

EMERGING FROM THE SHADOWS: A SURVEY OF WOMEN ARTISTS WORKING IN CALIFORNIA, 1860-1960

By Maurine St. Gaudens
(Schiffer Publishing).
Four volumes, each volume
includes 500-plus color images,
\$59.00 per volume

It's not often that you get a publication so broad in reach, so inclusive and so immaculately researched that it can change an art market for good. But that is exactly what *Emerging*

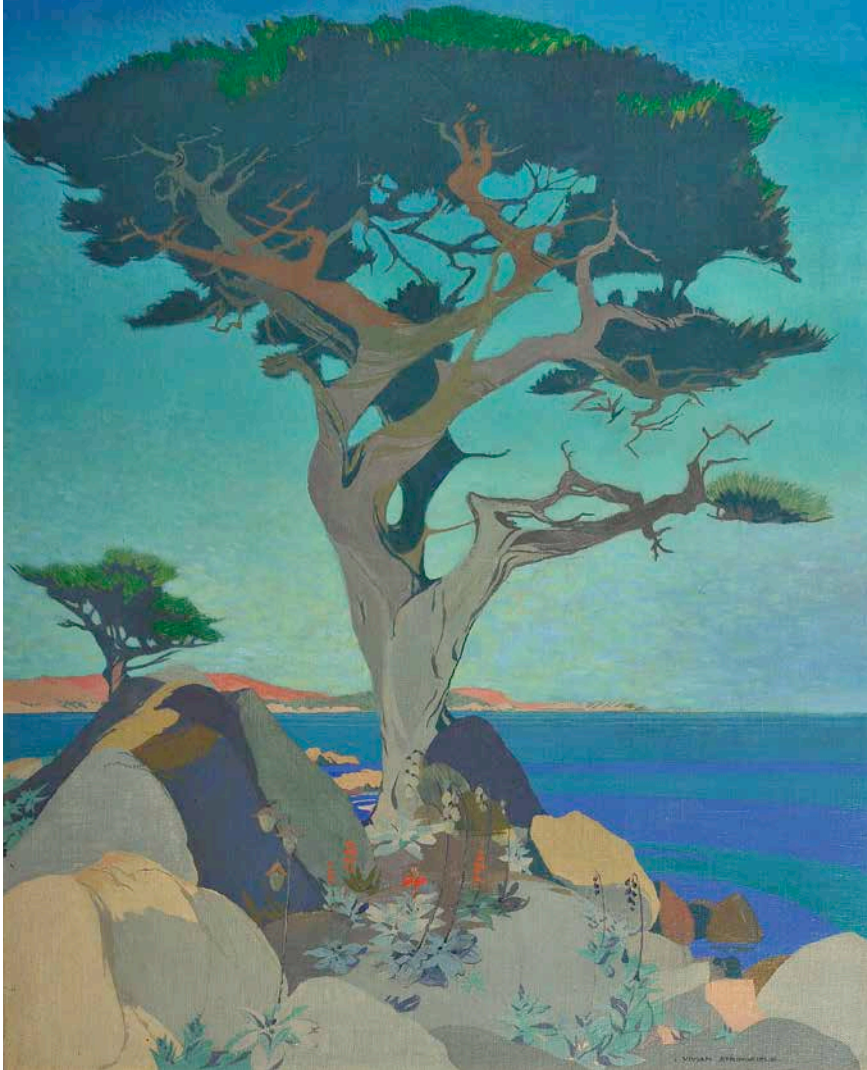
from the Shadows: A Survey of Women Artists Working in California 1860-1930 has done. This four-volume, 2,000-page, 2,000-image undertaking presents the career of 320 California-

based women artists over the course of a century, working in every possible medium including painting, sculpture, drawing and printmaking. As the book states, "These women were trailblazers, each one essential to the momentum of a movement that opened the door for heartfelt expression and equality."

Written by Maurine St. Gaudens, a historian, scholar and fine arts conservator based in Pasadena, California, *Emerging from the Shadows* is the ideal resource for collectors, curators, educators, auction specialists and dealers. St. Gaudens has cleverly laid out the book to give accurate biographical information on each artist, examples of signatures over the years and then plenty of full color images of each artist's works. Some entries go as long as 16 pages while others are only two. Because of this, *Emerging from the Shadows* is and will be for quite some time the definitive word on women



Ruth Alexander (1878-1965), *Fishing Boats - San Pedro*. Oil on canvas, 18 x 14 in., signed lower right. Private collection. Photo by Martin A. Folb, Ph.D.



Vivian F. Stringfield (1881-1933), *Monterey Cypress*, ca. 1925. Oil on canvas applied to artist board, 24 x 30 in., signed lower right. Courtesy of the Stringfield family. Photo by Martin A. Folb, Ph.D. Exhibited: Painters and Sculptors of Los Angeles Exhibition, 1926. Sculptors of Los Angeles Exhibition, 1926.

artists working in California.

“The individuals within these pages are all artists, in many cases powerful, competent and thoughtful; their work encompasses a broad range, spanning the realism of the nineteenth century to twentieth-century modernism,” says St. Gaudens in the preface. “The unrecognized artists are presented here standing

alongside their well-acknowledged peers. It is time for them to emerge and for their own personal shadow to fade. This book is a first step.”

Industry experts are already lining up to sing the book’s praises.

“Almost since the Gold Rush, California women played a vital role in the state’s artistic scene,

contributing mightily not only through their production, but through their roles as teachers, jurors and cultural leaders... Yet today, few of these artists are known, even within California itself, and rare is the woman whose art is known beyond the boundaries of the state,” says Scott A. Shields, Ph.D., associate director and chief

curator at the Crocker Art Museum. “The abundance of biographies and illustrations in *Emerging from the Shadows: A Survey of Women Artists Working in California, 1860-1960* beautifully helps rectify this, renewing our appreciation of those few artists who are known, and providing long-overdue acknowledgement of the many who are not.” ■