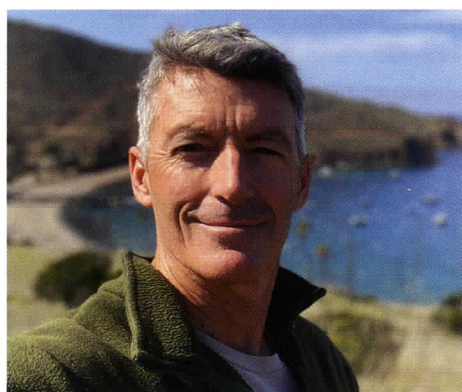


ART COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT

# Michael Obermeyer

by Dan Foliart

Obermeyer has referred to his artistic style as “somewhat impressionistic.” Much of his work is done in plein air and he is influenced by many of the early painters who established a community in Laguna Beach, where he lives and works.



“Vics”

The California Club’s painting, *Opening Day 1958: Dodger Baseball Comes to LA* by Obermeyer, was a 2018 Art Patrons’ Fund purchase and winner of the Irvine Museum Award at the California Art Club 107th Annual Gold Medal Exhibition. The painting, which depicts the first regular season major league game ever played in Los Angeles, captures a seminal moment in time in California history. After contentious negotiations for a new ballpark in Brooklyn were abandoned, owner Walter O’Malley sealed a deal to bring the Brooklyn Dodgers to Los Angeles. While the new ballpark in Chavez Ravine was being constructed, the Dodgers called the Los Angeles Coliseum home.

The game we see here was witnessed by over 78,000 people, a major league record for a single game at the time, as the Los Angeles Dodgers defeated the also-recently-transplanted San Francisco Giants 6-5. The scene captured is in the bottom of the 8th inning as the Giants’ Marv Grissom pitches to Pee Wee Reese moments before he flies out to center field. However, the key figure here is future Hall of Famer Duke Snider as he watches from the on-deck circle. Snider would go on to play six more seasons, ending his career in 1964, ironically with the Giants. For The California Club’s collection, it is fitting that Obermeyer chooses “the Duke” as his central character, considering that Snider was born in Los Angeles and graduated from Compton High School in 1944.

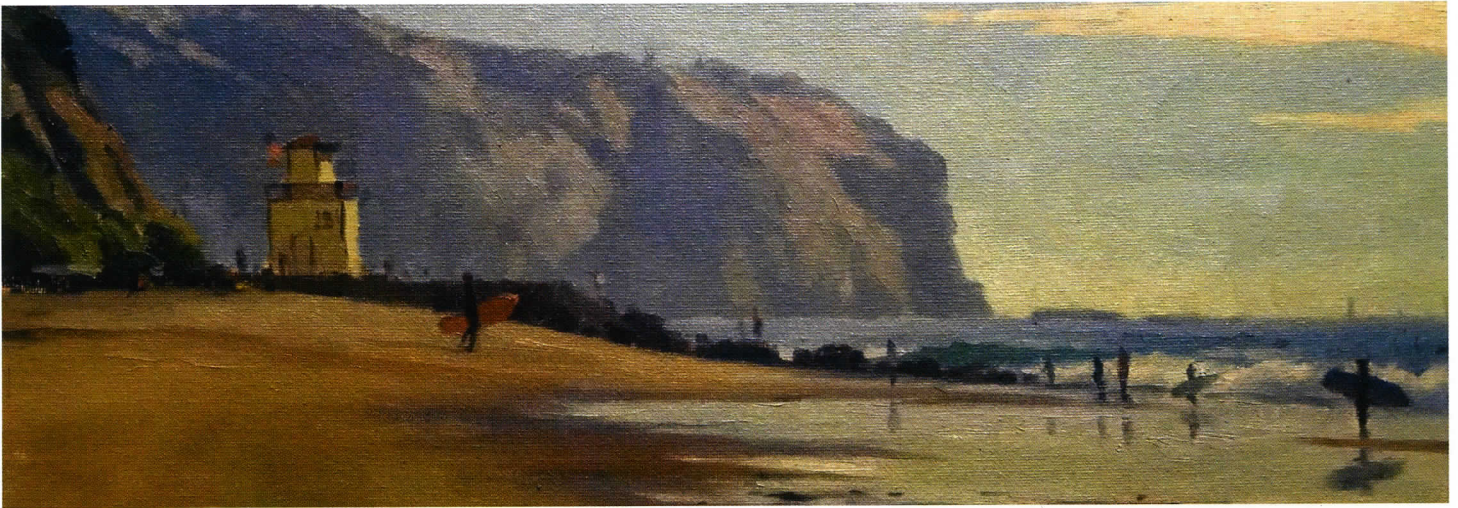


“Opening Day 1958 - Dodger Baseball Comes to L.A.”

An avid baseball fan, Obermeyer adorns his studio with sports memorabilia, largely concentrated on Dodger collectibles. Although this is an historic rendering, Obermeyer has imbued his subject with an immediacy that gives the impression that he was in attendance. The late afternoon sun captures the radiant east end of the elliptical stadium and focuses on the 1923 Coliseum’s most celebrated architectural features, its peristyle, triumphal arch, and adjacent smaller arches. The lateness of the afternoon has set the field and players in shadow, but Duke looks on with a timelessness and dignity that befits his stature on the team and the sport.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST

*A native of Southern California, Obermeyer is in all ways an ideal choice to join the ranks of the fine artists, past and present, who grace the walls of our Club.*

He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration at California State University, Long Beach. Following graduation, Obermeyer began a 20-year career as an illustrator, which armed him with the skills to move with seamless agility from the figure to the landscape. With works ranging from those created for Disney Studios to the United States Air Force, he was able to hone his craft, leaving him with a technique hallmarked by a seemingly limitless swath of genre and subject matter.

Obermeyer was presented with the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association “Lifetime Achievement Award” in 2015. He recently won the “Collector’s Choice Award” and the “Fine Art Connoisseur Award” at the Laguna Beach Invitational Plein Air Competition as well as the “Best of Show” at the Grand Canyon Celebration of Art and the Kern County Plein Air Festival, and the Gold Medal at the Carmel Art Festival. In addition to The California Club, collectors of Obermeyer’s art include the Marriott Hotels and Resorts, The Irvine Company, Hoag Hospital, California State Parks and many corporate and private commissions.

Obermeyer serves as the President of the prestigious California Art Club and is a Signature Member of the California Art Club and the Laguna Plein Air Painters Association. Currently, his paintings are showing at galleries in Carmel, Sonoma, Claremont, and in Laguna Beach, where he is a regular exhibitor at the Festival of Arts.

**Interested in being more involved in The California Club’s Art Collection? The Art Patrons Club is open to all Members. An annual fee of \$300 applies for restoration and acquisitions.**

