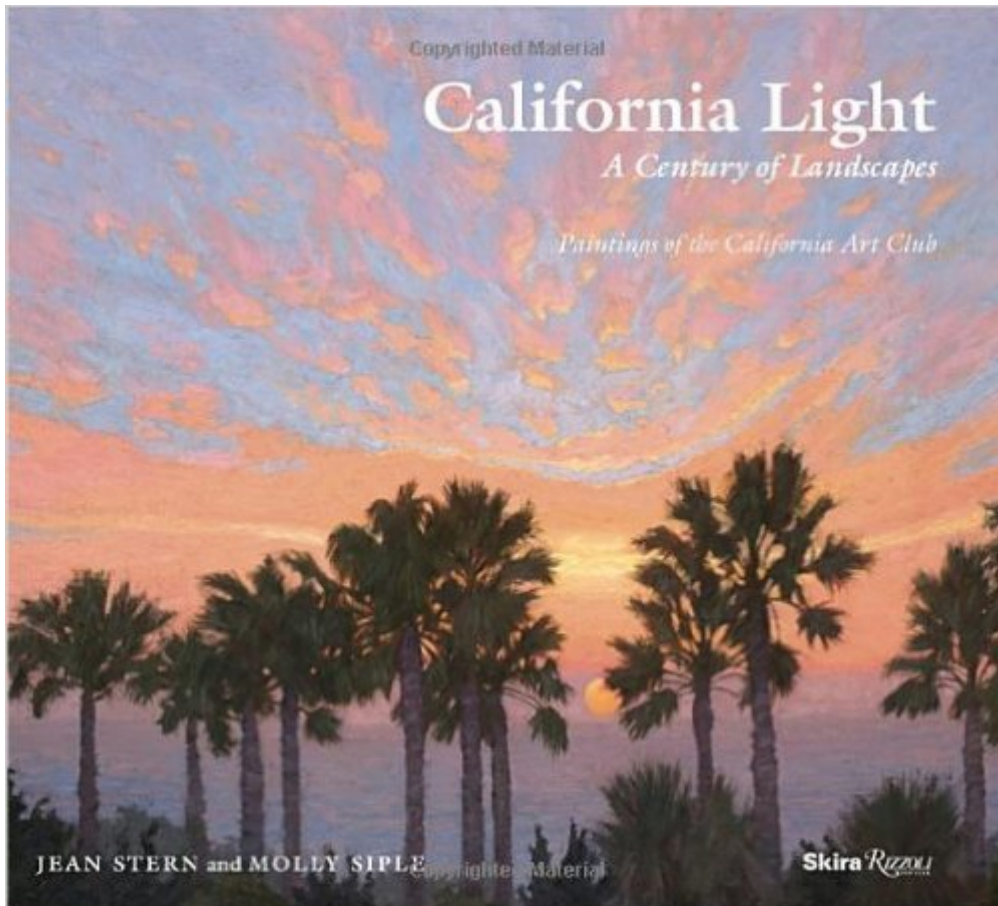


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# California Light: A Century Of Landscapes: Paintings Of The California Art Club



## Synopsis

A first-of-its-kind celebration of the California Art Club, a society whose members have for one hundred years captured California's staggeringly beautiful landscapes in resplendent plein air paintings. At the dawn of the twentieth century, California became home to artists from all over America and Europe who aspired to depict the state's awe-inspiring natural landscapes on canvas. In 1909, these artists founded the California Art Club, which stands today as one of the most esteemed painting societies in the United States. The club has achieved distinction for its commitment to plein air painting, an Impressionistic style in which painters work outdoors in order to capture the ephemeral moment when the natural lighting of a landscape elevates an already beautiful scene into something sublime. Celebrating a century of unique artwork, this volume presents impeccable images of the art club's masterworks, including unforgettable paintings of California's stunning and varied beauty—desert vistas, plunging coastlines, verdant vineyards, charming towns, and snow-topped mountains.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

As a celebration for the 100th Annual Gold Medal Juried Exhibition of the California Art Club, Jean Stern and Molly Siple have written a glowing account of the history of this representational art club and aptly titled it CALIFORNIA LIGHT. Stern is the Executive Director of the Irvine Museum: Siple is a participating artist in the California Art Club and thus we have two vantages from which to appreciate this very beautiful book produced by Skira Rizzoli. The book includes almost 200 works by 150 artists who have been or are members of this prestigious club. Some of the paintings

included are the impressionism of Scott Christensen and William Wray, the gentle realism of Jeremy Lipking and the photographic realism of Taylor Montague, to name but a few. The spectrum of painting styles follows those of American painting during the past hundred years and the glue that binds them is captured in the title of the book - California light. The reproductions of the paintings are of the highest quality and the accompanying history and commentary by Stern and Siple is eloquent and informative. This book stands on its own as a portfolio of beautiful painting, but as a collection by an 'arts collective' it is a very special commemorative catalogue. Grady Harp, April 11

The West Coast plein art painters have been totally ignored by the art critics of the big dailies. Here is art that inspires and stimulates. It may not be thought-provoking--you get what you see, but it teaches you to see the beauty in your surrounds. This book in particular has a wonderful array of styles, palettes, and subject matter. Every page is a vivid unforgettable image. Leave your condo, your apartment, your house and walk into the outdoors to appreciate the wonderful natural world we never stop to appreciate. Let the plein art artists sensitize you and guide you to beauty.

A nice tour of the beauty of California from beach to mountaintop all rendered in paint. The seascapes, landscapes, cityscapes all capture nice settings to view page after page. I really enjoyed the Sierra paintings especially. There are a few paintings that stand as amateuristic a bit compared to some clear masters. And there were a few dull paintings of little girls in dresses that were portraits, not landscapes. Maybe the artist is a friend of the authors or somebody - the only paintings that blemish this book just a bit. Hope they come out with more landscape painting books like this.

This book brings back the California I remember. It radiates a light unlike anywhere else on earth and it envelopes you. I lived near Monterey for a year and this is the first book I've seen that triggered my response of, "That's it! That's what it was like!".

A beautiful book, covering a who's who of American landscape artists. Many great paintings included from artists such as Edgar Payne, Clyde Aspevig, Jason Situ- the list of well known artists from this organization goes on and on. Especially beautiful about this book is the price- low for an art book! Recommend this for any landscape painter's library.

I'm an oil painter who does a lot of landscapes in a similar style to these artists. This book brings

nothing short of inspiration with each turn of the page. Really lovely photos of great works in landscape paintings, mostly oils, show close-ups and double page spreads of some which is the view painters want.

The California Light school of landscape painting is still glowing long after the state got californicated by hoards of migrating hinterlanders. This book is a great introduction to the wide range of painterly approaches.

This is a beautiful and informative book that uniquely combines a profile and examples of both "historic" California landscape artists with many of the best artists working in California today. The paintings reproduced here represent many of the finest examples of their work. Jean Stern is the Executive Director of the Irvine Museum of Art in California and is the preeminent authority on this subject. He has written many other books and essays and has lectured widely about California art. Both Mr. Stern and Molly Siple have written brief, lively and authoritative profiles of the artists. Whether you are new to collecting and appreciating art or have been haunting galleries and art auctions for decades you will find much to enjoy and appreciate in this beautifully produced book.

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