The Watts Towers were created over the course of 3 decades by a single figure, Simon Rodia, a self-taught artist. The project was a fusion of Mexican, Mediterranean, African-American, and Native American influences. The extraordinary Watts Towers were created over the course of 3 decades by Simon Rodia, a self-taught artist. The project was a fusion of Mexican, Mediterranean, African-American, and Native American influences. The Watts Towers were recognized as a cultural and historical landmark and were designated a National Landmark in 1966.

For more information and updates go to: www.WattsTowersCommonGround.org

Jeffrey Herr, <h1>holyhook House/Simon Rodia's Towers in Watts, DCA • Simon Rodia's Towers: A Status Report</h1>

Darnell M. Hunt and Ana Christina Ramon, <h1>UCLA</h1>

Laura E. Ruberto, Berkeley City College - A California Decolonizing Film on the Road to Holyoak Ranch, the Hupa Valley, and Italian American Identity

Kenneth Scambaym, Unlv. De La Venta • California and the Italian Immigrant Experience: The Artistic and Literary Contributions of Simon Rodia’s Towers


Richard Cândida Smith, Unlv. De California, Berkeley • An Era of Grand Ambitions: Sami Rodia and California Modernism

Timothy Watkins, Watts Labor Community Action Committee, Los Angeles • Don’t Move, Improve!” Watts Labor Community Action Committee, Past and Present

Robert Wolf, UCLA • The Open Microstructure: Umberto Eco’s Semiology of Architecture and the Watts Towers

And two special panels:

- In California with a Camera Panel discussion including John Outterbridge, Belaya Saar, Judson Powell, Augustine Aguirre, Charles Dickson, and others.
- The Committee of Simon Rodia’s Towers in Watts, key speakers by original members. William Carterfield, Betye Gladstone, Jimmie Morgan.

UCLA Conference: October 22-24
Free and open to the public. No registration required.

Conference Sessions:

Friday, October 22, Sequoia Room, UCLA Faculty Center, 2:00 – 6:30 p.m. (includes evening reception).

Saturday, October 23, UCLA 121 Odd Hall, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (includes lunch reception at St. Albin’s Episcopal Church, 910 Gilmore Ave., LA 90024). Limited free parking at St. Albin’s. First come, first served.

Sunday, October 24, Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. (includes “Day in Watts” morning tour and lunch. See following.)

Conferece Speakers Include:

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2010
6:00 p.m.
Watts Labor Community Action Committee

Sponsored by: The Watts Towers Arts Center; Watts Labor, Watts Community, St. Joseph’s Tables in the Black Community, UCLA, Young Women Leaders in Dialog on the U.N. Millennium Development Goals, and the platform for the Conference World on Women, Beijing, 1995

Conference Speakers:

Susan D. Anderson, UCLA • Placing the History of Watts as a Proponent of the Avant-Garde

Katia Balacchino, Uni. of Rome, Sapienza • Towers of Memory: Image and Visual Community Symbols Between Italy and the United States

Monica Rivas-Rodriguez, UCLA • Teaching the Watts Tower, Learning Los Angeles; Public Art, Storytelling, and Urban Pedagogy

Linden Blackford, Los Angeles • The Black Southern Migration in Watts: Peace World Art Talk

tutorial: "Don’t Move, Improve!" Watts Labor Community Action Committee. Past and Present

Edward Landler and Brad Byer, among others of Rodia’s family. The cooperation of the Watts community and the family, the creation of the Watts Towers, the city of Los Angeles; Armand Hammer Museum; Saving and Preserving Art and Cultural Environments (S.P.A.C.E.S.); Consulate General of Italy in Los Angeles; John Outterbridge, Betye Saar, Judson Powell, Augustine Aguirre, Charles Dickson, and others.

The Committee of Simon Rodia’s Towers in Watts, key speakers by original members. William Carterfield, Betye Gladstone, Jimmie Morgan.

A powerful and intimate documentary film on the life and work of turn-of-the-century sculptor/artist, the first visionary of Watts Towers, and his creation of an international landmark in Los Angeles.


Robert Wolf, UCLA • The Open Microstructure: Umberto Eco’s Semiology of Architecture and the Watts Towers.

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**THE WATTS TOWERS COMMON GROUND INITIATIVE: ART • MIGRATIONS • DEVELOPMENT**

**UCLA Conference: October 22-24, 2010**

Los Angeles Festival: September 25, 2010 – March 19, 2011

For more information and updates go to: www.WattsTowersCommonGround.org

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**EXHIBITIONS**


**SABATO RODIA’S TOWERS IN WATTS** (Istituto Italiano di Cultura, Westwood, October 18 – November 3). Curated by Rosie Lee Hooks (Director, Watts Towers Arts Center) & Jo Farb Hernandez (Director, S.P.A.C.E.S.).

“COMMITTEE FOR SIMON RODIA’S TOWERS IN WATTS” – UCLA SPECIAL COLLECTION NR. 1388 (Powell Library Building Rotunda, 2nd Floor, UCLA: October 18 – December 10). Curated by Luisa Del Giudice and Susan Anderson, UCLA Special Collections.

**THE WATTS TOWERS PROJECT** (Armand Hammer Museum: October 21), by Roger Guenveur Smith, Obie and Peabody Award-winner, reflecting on history and the solo endeavor.

**FILM**

I BUILD THE TOWER (Istituto Italiano di cultura, Westwood: October 23; v. October 24). Film by Edward Landler and Brad Byer.

**MUSICANCIATA** (Watts Towers campus: September 25 & 26). Music of Mediterranean Italy (southern Italian frame-drums and hypnotic thumb piano).

**TOUR**

DAY IN WATTS TOUR (October 24). Guided visits to the Watts Towers and its Arts Centers (Charles Mingus Youth Arts Center & Watts Towers Arts Center), the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (including Civil Rights Museum), stay for lunch, conference sessions, and film.

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**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

(UCLA, October 22-23) (Watts Labor Community Action Committee, October 24)

Speakers include: Cultural, Art and Architectural Historians, Literary Scholars, Folklorists, Conservators, Archivists, Municipal Administrators, Community Activists, Original Members of the CSRTW, Artists, Photographers, and others...

Susan D. Anderson, UCLA • Katia Ballacchino, Univ. of Rome • Monica Barra, Rutgers Univ. • Linden Beckford Jr. • Guglielmo Bilancioni, Univ. of Genova • Gail Brown • Steve Colton • Alessandro Dal Lago and Serena Giordano, Univ. of Genova • Mark Gilberg, and Frank D. Preusser, LACMA • Luisa Del Giudice • Paul A. Harris, Loyola Marymount Univ. • Jo Farb Hernandez, S.P.A.C.E.S. & San José State Univ. • Jeffrey Herr, Dept. of Cultural Affairs • Darnell M. Hunt and Ana Christina Calandra, It. Am. Inst., Queens College, NY • Richard Candida Smith, Univ. of California, Berkeley • Timothy Watkins, Watts Labor Community Action Committee • Amit Wolf, UCLA

Special Panels: 1. Artists in Conversation, John Outterbridge, Betye Saar, Augustine Aguirre, Charles Dickson, and others • 2. Original Members of the CSRTW, William Cartwright, Bud Goldstone, Jeanne Morgan

**COMMUNAL TABLES, PRACTICING HOSPITALITY & SUSTAINABILITY**

MARCH, 2011

ST. JOSEPH’S TABLE IN WATTS (Watts, March 19) & ST. JOSEPH, SAN GIUSEPPE, SAN JOSE. Lectures by Luisa Del Giudice; Charlene Villasenor-Black

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**LOCATIONS**

Armand Hammer Museum, 10899 Wilshire Blvd., LA 90024

IIC – Istituto Italiano di Cultura, 1023 Hilgard Ave., LA (Westwood) 90024

St. Alban’s Episcopal Church, 580 Hilgard Ave., LA 90024

UCLA – Sequoia Room Faculty Center, Powell Library, Dodd Hall, Westholme/Hilgard Ave., LA 90024

Watts Labor Community Action Committee, 10950 South Central Ave., LA 90059

Watts Towers & Watts Towers Arts Center, 1727 East 107th St., LA 90020

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**SPONSORS:**

Department of Italian at the University of California at Los Angeles; UCLA International Institute; City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs; Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA); Italian Cultural Institute of Los Angeles (ICI); Consulate General of Italy in Los Angeles; Armand Hammer Museum; Saving and Preserving Arts and Cultural Environments (S.P.A.C.E.S.); Watts Towers Arts Center (WTAC); Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLAC); Museo Etnomusicale, I Gigli di Nola (Gigli of Nola Ethnomusicological Museum); St. Alban’s Episcopal Church; Dept. of Special Collections, Young Research Library, UCLA

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