

# PEYTON WRIGHT

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## Clinton Adams (1918–2002) Paper and Paint: A Career Retrospective

*For immediate release: September 9, 2010*

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**Peyton Wright Gallery** is pleased to announce “Paper and Paint: A Career Retrospective”  
an exhibition featuring the work of Clinton Adams.

The exhibition commences with an opening reception on **Friday, October 1, 2010**  
from **5:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, and continues through **October 27, 2010**.



*Still Life (Black, White and Yellow)* oil on canvas 1954 30" x 40"

Clinton Adams, born in Glendale, California, in 1918, began his career as an artist and teacher at the University of California, Los Angeles, receiving his Bachelor of Education and Masters degrees before going on to teach in the art department from 1946 to 1954. At UCLA, Adams formed relationships with many of the pioneers of California Modernism, including Stanton Macdonald-Wright, Lorser Feitelson, and John McLaughlin. He subsequently directed the art departments at the Universities of Kentucky and Florida, before moving to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 1961.

Adams began his artistic career primarily as a painter, and while at UCLA, met Lynton Kistler, who acquainted him with print-making and lithography. Kistler also introduced Adams to the lithographer June Wayne who, in 1960, founded the Tamarind Lithography Workshop in Los Angeles, an atelier devoted to the exploration of the medium of print-making and to the training of master lithographers. In 1970, the Tamarind Workshop moved to the University of New Mexico and became the Tamarind Institute, where Adams became director until 1985.



*Still Life with Western Landscape* intaglio AP 1959 15 5/8" x 18 7/8"

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*Window* acrylic on canvas 1960 60 ½" x 44 ¼"

As a scholar, artist, and teacher he founded and edited the *Tamarind Papers* in 1974, a scholarly journal devoted to historical, critical and technical articles on prints and print-making. As the working editor of *Tamarind Papers* through 1990, he contributed extensively to other journals, such as *Print Quarterly*, and authored numerous authoritative books on the subject of print-making, including *American Lithographers: 1900-1960: The Artists and their Printers*; *Crayonstone: The Life and Work of Bolton Brown*; and *The Tamarind Book of Lithography: Art and Techniques*.

Clinton Adams' work has been exhibited in more than 60 solo exhibitions and is a part of many permanent public collections, including the Museum of Fine Arts Boston, the Brooklyn Museum, the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. His numerous honors include his election to the National Academy of Design in 1987, the Southern Graphic Council's Printmaker-Emeritus Award in 1998, and the Governor's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts of New Mexico in 1985.

Strongly cubist in style, Adams' early work exhibits a particular focus on architectural form and structure. This formalistic sensibility is also prominent in his later work, along with the use of "vibrant and translucent colors, reminiscent of the sparkling California and Mediterranean climates and brilliant light of New Mexico that he loved", according to Tobey Moss, a long-time friend of Adams. Van Deren Coke, founding director of the UNM Art Museum observed that Adams' works "are not a string of individual pictures, but the collective results of a growing confidence in his ability to make his hand follow his mind...a unity of pared-down forms and delicate tone shifts, a sense of movement across the plane of his pictures and into the space beyond. The choice of adjacent colors...the sure but not static interlocking of forms...[evoke] a sense of joyous vitality...His paintings open doors to the pleasures of simplicity and enhance our powers of imagination".

The University of New Mexico Art Museum is pleased to announce the opening of the Clinton Adams Gallery in the fall of 2010.

"A Meticulous Serenity: Catalogue Raisonné of the Prints of Clinton Adams 1948-1997" by Robert P. Conway with an essay by David Acton, will be published by University of New Mexico Press in cooperation with the University of New Mexico Art Museum.

**Peyton Wright Gallery is the exclusive representative of the Clinton Adams Estate.**

**For more information, please contact:**  
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**More images available upon request; please contact:**  
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