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**W**hen Pratt Art School graduate Nelbert Chouinard moved to California in 1919, a great future awaited her. She began teaching art almost immediately and by 1921, had opened her own school. In less than a decade the Chouinard Art School was listed among the top five art schools in the nation, a position it occupied for the rest of its history. Her faculty consisted of professional artists; students were hand-selected talents, many from local high schools. Her formula was simple: students worked hard at the basics of drawing, design, and painting, and then were encouraged to follow their own learnings. By WWII the school's reputation had spread and applicants arrived from around the world. This success continued through the 50's and 60's, Chouinard always playing a large role in the development of various forms of Modernism, from Hard Edge to West Coast Pop, Light and Space to Surf and Rock culture. By 1972, Chouinard's fifty year run had come to a close.



Nelbert Chouinard, Chouinard House, 1932

The ensuing thirty years formed something of a distillation period, this process leaving "Chouinard" a purified ideal – one that is alive in the many that experienced it and something that reaches beyond even Nelbert Chouinard herself. Part methodology, part lore and memory, "Chouinard," as it has now become through rediscovery, is clarified and alive, its basic purpose revitalized.

The Chouinard Foundation is a receptacle for this purpose, defining Chouinard's influential role in the past but, more importantly, being there for future artists wanting to contribute in a meaningful way to the future of art making.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the artists, dealers and collectors who have generously donated in order to see this idea become a reality.

Robert Perine  
Dave Tourjé  
Los Angeles, March 2003

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