

Artist Statement

By Edward Locke

East Los Angeles College, Spring 2018

Project Title: Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Tom Bradley

Medium: Acrylics and enamels on stretched canvas and wood panels, with found objects attached on the surface of the Second Project

Summary for the course: In this course, I have tried acrylics (including Liquitex student grade acrylics, Golden Heavy Body Acrylics and liquid acrylics from assorted brands) on stretched canvas and wood panels, with found objects attached on the surface of the Second Project. Realistic depictions of figures and landscapes have been achieved by semi-impressionistic broad brush strokes, inspired by Van Gogh's paintings and by the large mural on the wall of the staircase inside the East Los Angeles College Library. In addition, enamel paints and liquid acrylics indicated for glass surface have been used on a mirror surface. Palette knives have been used to generate strokes and marks and to create an impressionistic style. The three projects are described below.

Project One (The Portrait of the Mayor Tom Bradley): A 2 feet by 2 feet Tom Bradley Portrait on stretched canvas turned 45 degrees, the central part of the *Celebrate the Life and Legacy of Tom Bradley*, the five-term Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, over a textured background previously created with fluid acrylic techniques.

Project Two (Tom Bradley's Communities): Four landscape painting depicting scenes associated with Tom Bradley's life and career, on 12 inches by 12 inches squared stretched canvas. They include: (1) Los Angeles City Hall, symbolic of Tom Bradley's five terms as the Mayor of the City of Los Angeles; (2) Dodger Stadium where the Summer Olympiad 1984 took place; (3) LAX Airport and the artistic and decorative metal roof of the entrance to the Santa Monica/Vermont Station of the Metro Red Line in Los Angeles, symbolic of his contribution to the expansion of public transportation in Southern California; (4) the log cabin and cotton trees symbolic of his childhood, and (5) the Earth, symbolic of his global perspectives. Found objects attached to the surfaces on the above include real cotton balls, dried tiny tree branches, and decorative items such as jewels and beads, plastic seaweeds and leaves, which are intended to create "bas-relief" effects, using Golden Extra Heavy Gel as adhesive for these items, and Gloss Medium as binding and molding agent for the cotton balls.

Project Three (The Angels of Tom Bradley): Portraits of important heroes associated with Tom Bradley's life plus the logo of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People (NAACP), on wood panels cut to curved edges and shaped with router bits, glass mirror with decorative edges, and paper. These include (1) the portrait of Adlai Stevenson on the glass surface of a mirror with decorative radiating beams symbolic of his positive influence on American social life, painted with acrylic and enamels; (2) the image of Martin Luther King, painted with acrylics on a star-shaped wood board prepared with flow acrylics to create textured color patterns; (3) the image of Tom Bradley's wife, Ethel Bradley, painted with acrylics on a curved wood board, also prepared with flow acrylics to create textured color patterns; and (4) the

logo of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People (NAACP) painted with acrylics on paper, cut to its outline and attached to a glass surface of a mirror with decorative radiating beams symbolic of the organization's positive influence on American social progress.

The whole project with three parts will be assembled as shown in the picture below, with additional background sky, ocean and wings produced as photo images and as "bas-relief" with feathers bought at Michaels store, and attached to plywood boards. The course is successful in enhancing my portrait painting skills and in trying out painting on glass surface and on using found objects to create "bas-relief" effects, which makes the project "multi-media."

