

Getting to Know Our Keynote Speaker

About the Author, **Jill Thayer, Ph.D.**

Jill Thayer is an artist, educator, curator, art historian, photographer, marketing strategist, art appraiser, and author exploring the narratives of creative expression in contemporary culture. A graduate of Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield, she completed a post-grad study in Florence, Italy. As owner of an award-winning design firm for 25 years, Jill worked with regional and global clientele providing visual communication and marketing strategy. She was a gallerist for 15 years representing regional and international artists in exhibitions at Jill Thayer Galleries at the Fox, receiving critical reviews in *Artweek* and noted in *Art Business News* and *Art in America*.



Dr. Jill Thayer

In 2004, Jill earned a Masters degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from California State University, Bakersfield aligning Arts and Humanities, Master of Business Administration, and Art Education programs. In 2011, she received a Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate University in Cultural Studies/ Museum Studies in areas of contemporary art history, exhibition theory, design theory, and visual culture. Jill was accepted to a transdisciplinary doctoral study in global strategy and trade through Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at St. Peter's College, University of Oxford in the UK, researching the effects of European Union expansion on artistic creation, commerce, and culture. She was awarded a doctoral fellowship from CGU School of Arts and Humanities for her dissertation, *Artist Emergence in Contemporary Culture: A Dialectic of Social and Material Conditions of Southern California Artists* (Proquest, 2011). *In Their Own Words: Oral Histories of CGU Art* (2013), a post-doctoral fellowship project featured interviews with professors emeritus and exhibitions in CGU Art galleries that Thayer curated. The project's digital narratives are included in *Archives of American Art* at The Smithsonian Institution.

In 2013, Jill relocated to the Central Coast and served as curator for Estrella Warbirds Museum and interim gallery director for Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Allan Hancock College, and was a contributing writer for art publications such as *Artpulse*, Miami; *Artvoices*, Los Angeles; and *Aesthetica* Magazine, UK. She produced a podcast, *The Art of Life with Dr. Jill Thayer* for Voice of Paso Internet radio that featured interviews with artists and cultural contributors. Dr. Thayer is a Professor of Art History, Marketing, and Communications for numerous colleges and universities. She also is an art consultant for an international art dealer. Recently, she completed a year-long study and passed the USPAP exam to become a qualified art appraiser and Associate Member of Appraisers Association of America, NY.

As an artist of over 40 years, Jill works in acrylic using a high-energy palette for her abstract and expressionist landscape paintings. Her photography reflects the sublime and majestic beauty of the coastal region. Jill's work is included in corporate and private collections nationally. *Sojourns: 100 Trails of Enlightenment Inspired by the California Central Coast* (Archway from Simon & Schuster) features selected trails between Big Sur and Oceano. The author gained inspiration from the words of artists, naturalists, theorists, and writers she featured in the book. Jill notes, "*The trails bring enchantment, peace, and solitude. They embrace the healing power of nature, capture the majestic wonder of our ocean and forests, and reflect the stewardship of the land. The writing process deepened my appreciation of our environment, as it awakened my presence in the moment and further defined my role as an artist and cultural observer.*"