



Interstitial

March 5-August 6, 2017



Joel Otterson, *American Portable Pottery Museum*, 1994. Ceramic, copper, plumbing pipe, steel, and casters, 93 X 104 X 20 inches.
Photo © 2016 Maloney Fine Art. Courtesy of the artist and Maloney Fine Art, Los Angeles

Pasadena, CA — The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present the contemporary exhibition *Interstitial*. With new and recent free-standing sculptures by seven Los Angeles-based artists, curator John David O'Brien addresses the question: What happens to ordinary entities of domestic life when they are moved from their quotidian contexts, transformed through the art-making process, and reconfigured in the formal space of the museum? The community of object makers answers this question with works that exist in the interstitial space, in between the memories of objects' conventional functions and their abrupt and unexpected presences as artworks in the museum.

The seven artists: Jeff Colson, Renée Lotenero, Kristen Morgin, Joel Otterson, Rebecca Ripple, Aili Schmeltz, and Shirley Tse forge relationships with everyday objects through an eclectic merging of sculpture and craft, a colliding of found and formed pieces. The resulting object-sculptures are hybrids, assembled from or reinvented to resemble the habitually overlooked items of the everyday. By reconstructing and reimagining objects, the artists renew viewers' attention to the significance, placement, and visual characteristics of objects, within both the exhibition and their daily lives. The artists further challenge the conventional functions of the objects by imbuing them with values not inherent to their normative usages, causing viewers to consider the way meaning is ascribed.

To encourage careful observation and underscore the uncanny sense of displacement, the gallery walls are void of text as well as artwork—a divergence from the majority of art in museums, which is hung on or positioned close to the walls. The sculptures are arranged at a distance from one another and either set away from gallery walls or suspended from the ceiling, making them available for viewing in the round from any vantage point. The suspended artworks may lead viewers to notice the unique, exposed ceiling of the PMCA, an often overlooked feature, and to conjure the architectural usage of the term *interstitial*, which indicates the space above the ceiling of one level but below the floor of the next.

The works also evoke their art historical roots, from still life painting's symbolic meanings to the readymade's use of found objects and assemblage's combination of disparate elements, and from abstraction's conveyance of emotion to conceptual art's theoretical notions. Whether through Joel Otterson's combinations of fine and decorative art materials, Kristen Morgin's unfired clay disguised as found objects, or Jeff Colson's masses of stacked paper that merge memory and craft, the artworks in *Interstitial* challenge connotation and perceived iconography through the restructuring or sculpting of and with domestic objects and their placement in new contexts.

Interstitial unravels labels and melts away standard uses and prescribed functions through a sculptural translation of the everyday into art. On view in the PMCA Main Gallery, the works encourage slow looking and contemplation of the form, structure, and aesthetic value of art as well as the objects that make up our surroundings.

Interstitial is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art, curated by John David O'Brien, and accompanied by a brochure. The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors and PMCA Ambassadors Circle and is made possible in part by the Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division.



Left to Right: Kristen Morgin, *My Lucky Star*, 2015. Unfired clay, paint, ink, marker, and graphite. 6 1/2 x 32 x 37 inches. Photo © 2016 Robert Wedemeyer. Courtesy of the artist; Jeff Colson, *Stacks*, 2015-2016. Urethane resin, wood, and acrylic paint, 70 x 68 x 36. Photo © 2016 Maloney Fine Art. Courtesy of the artist and Maloney Fine Art, Los Angeles



PMCA 123 Monthly Programming

Free First Friday (12:00–5:00pm)

April 7 • May 5 • June 2 • July 7 • August 4

Second Saturday Spotlight Talk (2:00pm)

March 11 • April 8 • May 13 • June 10 • July 8

Free Third Thursday Evening (5:00–8:00pm)

March 16 • April 20 • May 18 • June 15 • July 20

For additional programming visit pmcaonline.org/programs.

Museum Information

MISSION

The mission of the Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is to present the breadth of California art and design through exhibitions that explore the cultural dynamics and influences that are unique to California.

HOURS

Open Wednesday–Sunday, 12:00–5:00pm; third Thursday of each month, 12:00–8:00pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

ADMISSION

\$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (62+); \$5 for students & educators; free for PMCA members and children (12 and under); free the first Friday of each month (12:00–5:00pm); free the third Thursday of each month (5:00–8:00pm). Access for people with disabilities is provided.

PLAN YOUR VISIT

The museum is located at 490 East Union Street. From the 210 Freeway, take the Lake Avenue exit. Go south and take a right on Union Street. From the 110 Freeway/Downtown Los Angeles, follow the freeway until its end, then take Arroyo Parkway and turn right at Colorado, then left at Oakland to get to Union Street. Parking is available at the Museum.

DOCENT TOURS AND GROUP RATES

The museum offers docent tours on the second Saturday of each month (2:00pm; free with admission). Docent tours are also available Wednesday–Friday, 12:00–5:00pm, to private groups for a fee of \$75. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the scheduled date. Self-guided tours for K-12 students are offered for free. We regret that we are unable to accommodate docent tours for groups larger than 35 people. Before requesting a tour, please check the exhibition calendar to see which exhibitions will be available during your visit.

A discounted group rate of \$3 per person is available for groups of 20 or more (K-12 student groups are free). Please call to notify us at least one week in advance for these special admission rates. For any questions or to make reservations for a tour or group rate, call our Membership, Visitor Services & Bookstore Associate, Susan Wang, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email swang@pmcaonline.org.

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit pmcaonline.org.