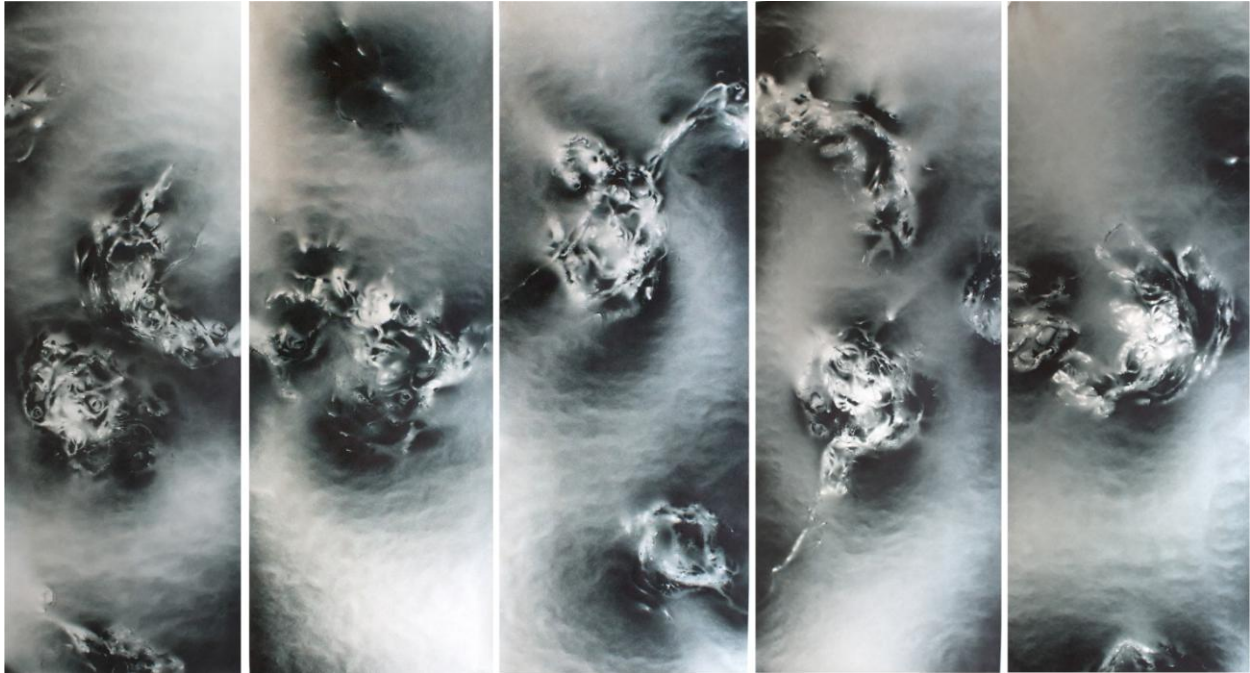


MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Revised: February 6, 2012

Nancy Baker Cahill: Fascinomas
January 22, 2012 – May 20, 2012

5 Panel *Fascinoma* (Black), 2011. Acrylic on fiberglass paper, 96 × 180 inches.

Pasadena, CA - The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present Los Angeles painter Nancy Baker Cahill's *Fascinomas*, a multimedia installation that examines the human body's simultaneous vulnerability and resilience in response to the elusive, subjective condition of "pain." In medical jargon, a "fascinoma" refers to an unusual case or diagnosis. The installation, comprised of video and paintings, presents imagined invaders, growths and intra-corporeal phenomena—*fascinomas*—through the diverse visual languages of electron microscopy, ultrasound and prehistoric cave paintings.

The installation uses the viewer as both site and actor; Baker Cahill's undulating spectral forms, which are rendered in microscopic detail at an exaggerated scale, are mounted on an oversized folding screen leading into the gallery space. Projected onto a large scrim inside the gallery is an animated sequence of paintings. The viewer is able to move around and through the projected *fascinomas*, becoming integrated into the mysterious micro (and at times macro) cosmos. Against

this landscape, the viewer can consider the scale of his or her own body in relation to the often unnerving imagery.

Inspired by a meeting with a worm scientist at the Natural History Museum in Los Angeles, Baker Cahill started integrating the principles of electron microscopy and ultrasound—both of which render photographic imagery without a light source—into her practice. Using a technique as old as the first cave paintings, each painting is airbrushed so that particulate pigment assails the forms creating depth and cellular complexity. The process also references modern electron microscopy where a beam of electrons first bombards its subject before its reflection is measured.

Fascinomas explore the quiet and implied violence of things that are not *of* the body but *in* the body and are rendered with intentional ambiguity to resist specific categorization and to underscore the failure of language to describe phenomena that cannot be seen, but only felt.

Nancy Baker Cahill is a visual artist based in Los Angeles. In 2010, she initiated and continues to lead *Exit Wounds*, a collaborative art project for at-risk and formerly gang-involved youths at Homeboy Industries in East Los Angeles. Artwork from the *Exit Wounds* has been embraced by the Craft and Folk Art Museum's Folk Art Everywhere Program and is exhibited throughout the city of Los Angeles. She holds a B.A. in Studio Art from Williams College and was named one of "17 Artists You Should Know" by *THE Magazine*.



Video Still, *Fascinomas (Red)*, 2011. Acrylic on paper.

OPENING RECEPTION

Sunday, January 22, 2012

6:00 – 9:00 pm

\$5 admission

Free for PMCA Members

ARTIST TALK

Sunday, March 18, 2012

3 pm

Free with admission

Free for PMCA Members

About the PMCA:

The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is dedicated to the exhibition of California art, architecture, and design from 1850 to the present. Informed by the state's rich mixture of cultures and inspired by its impressive geography, California art has long been defined by a spirit of freedom and experimentation. PMCA exhibitions and educational programs explore the cultural dynamics and influences unique to California that have shaped and defined art in all media.

Hours:

Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00 - 5:00 pm.

The Museum is closed July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Admission:

\$7 for Adults, \$5 for Seniors (65+) and Students with valid ID; free to PMCA Members and children under 12. Access for people with disabilities is provided.

Location/Parking:

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.

PMCA Tours:

At this time, the museum does not offer regularly scheduled docent tours of our special exhibitions. However, docent tours are available to private groups for a fee of \$75. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 is due two weeks prior to the scheduled date in order to guarantee a tour. We regret that we are unable to accommodate tours for groups smaller than 10 or larger than 50 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 \$4 per person is available for groups of 20 or more, and free admission is offered to school groups of K-12 public school students. 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, please call 626-568-3665 x17.

PMCA Information:

For information, the please call 626-568-3665 or visit the website: www.pmcaonline.org