

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

September 22, 2011

***L.A. RAW: Abject Expressionism in Los Angeles 1945-1980,  
From Rico Lebrun to Paul McCarthy***  
**January 21, 2012 – May 20, 2012**



Rico Lebrun, *Untitled (Three figures)*, 1960. Ink wash on paper,  
18 x 18 1/2 inches. Private collection.

**Pasadena, CA** - The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *L.A. RAW: Abject Expressionism in Los Angeles 1945-1980, From Rico Lebrun to Paul McCarthy* on view from January 22, 2012 to May 20, 2012. The figurative artists, who dominated the postwar Los Angeles art scene until the late 1950s, have largely been written out of today's art history. This exhibition, part of the Getty Foundation's initiative "Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945-1980," traces the distinctive aesthetic of figurative expressionism from the end of World War II, bringing together over 120 works by forty-one artists in a variety of media—painting, sculpture, photography, and performance.

*L.A. RAW* surveys the continuing presence of dark expressionistic work in Southern California, providing a fresh local heritage for the figurative art of today. The exhibition fills in a gap in knowledge about post World War II art, tracking figurative art through postwar existentialism, the Beat movement, 1960s politics, and 1970s feminism and performance – the forces that lead to the explosion of body-oriented art in the 1980s.



William Brice, *Untitled (Malibu Figure)*, 1968. Oil on canvas, 69 1/2 x 59 in. Courtesy of L.A. Louver, Venice, California © Estate of William Brice.

The exhibition includes commanding figurative works by Rico Lebrun, Howard Warshaw, Jack Zajac, and William Brice that provide a fascinating heritage for the darker side of the Ferus Gallery scene, exemplified with work by Edward Kienholz, Wallace Berman, Lynn Foulkes, and John Altoon. Artists such as Hans Burkhardt, David Hammons, Judith Baca, and Charles White use their work to vent political outrage, while Eugene Berman, June Wayne, John Paul Jones, and Joyce Treiman convey more melancholic, contemplative assessments of mankind. *L.A. RAW* also includes four artists associated with the important venue, Ceeje Gallery:

Charles Garabedian, Roberto Chavez, Ben Sakoguchi, and Les Biller. Judy Chicago, Barbara T. Smith and Carole Caroompas present deeply

personal feminist expressions, while performance artists Chris Burden, Kim Jones and Paul McCarthy develop a new kind of physical expressionism. The passionate consistency of all the artists—whose work often depicts a boldly honest, stripped-down view of humanity in its rawest, most elemental state—demonstrates the ongoing relevance of expressionism as a primary approach to art making.

*L.A. RAW: Abject Expressionism in Los Angeles 1945-1980, From Rico Lebrun to Paul McCarthy* places both lesser- and better-known artists in a historical context, giving unique insight into the reactions to World War II and the atomic bomb; to the repressions of the Eisenhower Era; to the fallout of 1960s idealism; and to ongoing racial and gender struggles.

The exhibition is curated by art writer and independent curator Michael Duncan, a Corresponding Editor for *Art in America* whose writings have focused on maverick artists of the twentieth century, West Coast modernism, twentieth century figuration, and contemporary California art. *L.A. RAW: Abject Expressionism in Los Angeles 1945-1980, From Rico Lebrun to Paul McCarthy* will be accompanied by a 200 page catalogue, a much-needed reference for the study of post-war American figurative art. It will include essays by Duncan and art historian Peter Selz who have each written extensively on many of the most prominent figures of twentieth century West Coast art history and many of the *L.A. RAW* artists. Co-published by PMCA and Foggy Notion Books, the volume will also feature short biographical essays on each of the artists written by Duncan.

*L.A. RAW: Abject Expressionism in Los Angeles 1945-1980, From Rico Lebrun to Paul McCarthy* is part of Pacific Standard Time. This unprecedented collaboration, initiated by the Getty, brings together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California for six months beginning October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.

Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty. The presenting sponsor is Bank of America.



An initiative of the Getty with arts institutions across Southern California.

Presenting Sponsors



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## RELATED PROGRAMS & EVENTS

### OPENING RECEPTION

**Sunday, January 22, 2012**

**6:00 – 9:00 pm**

\$5 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 Shirlae Cheng-Lifshin at 626-568-3665 x17.

**PMCA Information:**

For information, the please call 626-568-3665 or visit the website: [www.pmcaonline.org](http://www.pmcaonline.org)

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