



**PRESS RELEASE**

## **Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent**

June 14–November 1, 2015



*the sure one*, 1966. Silkscreen print on Pellon, 29 ¾ x 36 inches. Collection: Corita Art Center, Immaculate Heart Community, Los Angeles, CA. Photograph by Arthur Evans, courtesy of the Tang Museum at Skidmore College.

**Pasadena, CA** — The Pasadena Museum of California of California Art is proud to present *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*, the first full-scale survey of the America artist and activist Corita Kent's rich and varied career. Covering a more than thirty-year oeuvre, the exhibition touches on her work as a designer, teacher, feminist, and civil-rights and anti-war activist. Her thousands of posters, murals, and signature serigraphs reflect a combined passion for faith and politics. Kent became one of the most popular graphic artists of the 1960s and 1970s, and her images remain iconic symbols that address the larger questions and concerns of that turbulent time.

"Few artists have explored the ramifications of the written word with the visual sophistication of Corita. Acclaimed for decades by cognoscenti as a unique contributor to Pop Art and the generator of an effective style of socially engaged art making, she is being rediscovered by a new generation bred on Photoshop, grassroots activism, font-tweaking, and DIY publishing," says Michael Duncan, exhibition co-curator. "After a triumphal cross-country tour of four museums, the appearance of this exhibition in Southern California—where Corita grew up and taught—brings her fantastic project back home."

Corita Kent was a Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and taught in the art department at Immaculate Heart College (IHC) in Los Angeles from 1946 through 1968. There, she fostered a creative and collaborative arts community and developed a life-long interest in printmaking. At IHC, she developed her characteristic mixture of bold, bright imagery and provocative texts that she extracted from a range of cultural sources, including advertising slogans, grocery store signage, poetry, scripture, newspapers, magazines, philosophy, theological criticism, and song lyrics. Her inventive textual amalgams mix the secular and religious, popular culture and fine art, pain and hope, and include quotes from

## PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

*Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*

Page 2/4

a range of literary and cultural figures, such as Samuel Beckett, Albert Camus, e. e. cummings, Langston Hughes, John Lennon, and Gertrude Stein.

For Kent, printmaking was a populist medium to communicate with the world around her, and her designs were widely disseminated through billboards, book jackets, illustrations, posters, gift cards, and T-shirts. Printmaking allowed Kent to produce a large quantity of original art for those who could not afford to purchase high-priced artworks.

While several exhibitions have focused on Kent's work from the 1960s, *Someday is Now* is the first major museum show to survey her entire career, including early abstractions and text pieces as well as the more lyrical works made in the 1970s and 1980s. The exhibition also includes rarely shown photographs of Kent. Additionally, the PMCA's Project Room will offer art-making activities for all ages inspired by the art and teachings of Corita Kent, films related to the exhibition, and a reading area. Local artists and educators will lead a special series of workshops for adults and children in the Project Room.

*Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent* is curated by Ian Berry, Dayton Director of The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College, and Michael Duncan, independent curator, in collaboration with the Corita Art Center, Los Angeles.



Left: *someday is now*, 1964. Silkscreen print on paper, 24 x 35 7/8 inches. Private Collection. Photograph by Arthur Evans, courtesy of the Tang Museum at Skidmore College. Right: Immaculate Heart College Silkscreen Room. Courtesy of Corita Art Center, Los Angeles.

## **Programs**

*Programs are free with admission and free for PMCA members unless otherwise noted.*

### **In Dialogue: Power Up! The Social and Political Activism of Corita Kent**

*Sunday, June 14 • 1:00pm*

Exhibition curators Ian Berry and Michael Duncan lead a panel discussion on the social and political activism of artist Corita Kent and how her legacy lives on in contemporary art and design. Panelists include Sasha Carrera, Creative Consultant for the Corita Art Center; Corita collaborator Sam Eisenstein; and Joel Garcia, Director of Programs & Operations at Self Help Graphics & Art.

### **Play Reading: *LITTLE HEART* — OFF-SITE at All Saints Church**

*Saturday, July 18 • 2:00–4:00pm*

*LITTLE HEART*, a new play by acclaimed playwright Irene O'Garden, is based on the life of Corita Kent and explores her ongoing battle with arch-conservative Cardinal McIntyre, as well as her private struggles with fellow sisters, students, and her own spiritual doubt. Starring Amanda Plummer and directed by John Pielmeier. Free event.

*LITTLE HEART* takes place in the Forum at All Saints Church—132 N. Euclid Avenue | [allsaints-pas.org](http://allsaints-pas.org)—followed by a Q&A. Parking available at the PMCA and at All Saints. Additionally, the PMCA offers extended hours until 6:00pm for attendees to visit the exhibition.

## PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

*Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*

Page 3/4

### **Curator's Walkthrough with Michael Duncan**

*Sunday, July 19 • 3:00pm*

Co-curator Michael Duncan leads a walkthrough of *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*.

### **Children's Workshop: Bookmaking**

*Saturday, July 25 • 2:00–3:30pm*

Learn about the influence of literature, poetry, and language through the artworks in our current exhibitions, and produce a book of your own. All ages!

### **Family Day**

*Sunday, August 1 • 3:00–5:00pm*

Participate in fun art projects for the whole family based on our current exhibitions. All ages!

### **Children's Workshop: Collect, Connect, Create**

*Saturday, August 22 • 2:00–3:30pm*

Assemble a collage while learning how Corita Kent's work draws connections between the things she saw and collected. All ages!

### **Zine Workshop with Yumi Sakugawa**

*Saturday, August 29 • 2:00–4:00pm*

Comic artist and author Yumi Sakugawa leads a "zine" workshop on mindfulness, meditation, and comics.

Space is limited. Email [RSVP@pmcaonline.org](mailto:RSVP@pmcaonline.org)

### **Children's Workshop: Making and Using Stamps**

*Saturday, September 19 • 2:00–3:30pm*

Produce a print using different techniques and materials, such as found objects and rubber-eraser stamps. Learn about Corita Kent's printmaking processes as well as how stamps are used for both work and play around the world. All ages!

### **Smithsonian magazine presents Museum Day Live!**

*Saturday, September 26 • 12:00–5:00pm*

In the spirit of the Smithsonian Museums, which offer free admission every day, Museum Day Live! is an annual event hosted by *Smithsonian* magazine in which participating museums across the country open their doors to anyone presenting a Museum Day Live! ticket... for free.

The Museum Day Live! ticket provides free admission for two people. Tickets will be available for download on August 1, 2015. Visit [smithsonianmag.com/museumday](http://smithsonianmag.com/museumday) for more information.

### **There's Only Make: Printmaking Workshop with Corita Art Center**

*Saturday, October 3 • 2:00–4:00pm*

Learn about screenprinting by pulling your own Corita-inspired print. This workshop, presented in collaboration with the Corita Art Center, gives visitors the opportunity to use and combine techniques and forms that exist in the artist's work.

### **ArtNight Pasadena**

*Friday, October 9 • 6:00–10:00pm*

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and complimentary shuttle transportation at the PMCA and other cultural destinations around Pasadena. Visit [artnightpasadena.org](http://artnightpasadena.org) for more information.

### **Children's Workshop: Creating a Celebration**

*Saturday, October 17 • 2:00pm*

In the 1960s, Corita Kent took special care to revitalize Mary's Day, a community festival that was important to her, by producing useful and beautiful signs, banners, streamers, and crowns. Participants in this workshop consider the significance of celebrations and create fun, functional objects in honor of celebrations meaningful to them. All ages!

## PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

*Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*

Page 4/4

### **Happiness is a Thing Called Fiestas**

*Saturday, October 24 • 2:00–4:00pm*

Create banners and wearable art with Corrie Siegel, Education Manager at the Fowler Museum at UCLA, and participate in a Corita-inspired “Happening.” The celebration features a musical performance and a live yarn-bombing installation by artist and “guerrilla knitter” Susie Nicholson.

## **PMCA 123**

### **Free First Fridays (12:00–5:00pm)**

*July 3 • August 7 • September 4 • October 2*

### **Second Saturday Docent Tours & Screenprinting Demonstrations (2:00pm)**

*July 11 • August 8 • September 12 • October 10*

### **Free Third Thursday Evenings (5:00–8:00pm)**

*June 18 • July 16 • August 20 • September 17 • October 15*

## **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, 5:00–8:00pm; closed Mondays, Tuesdays, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year’s Day.

### **ADMISSION**

\$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students; free for PMCA members and children under 12; 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 Bookstore and Membership Associate, Susan Wang, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email [swang@pmcaonline.org](mailto:swang@pmcaonline.org).

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit [pmcaonline.org](http://pmcaonline.org).