



MEDIA CONTACT

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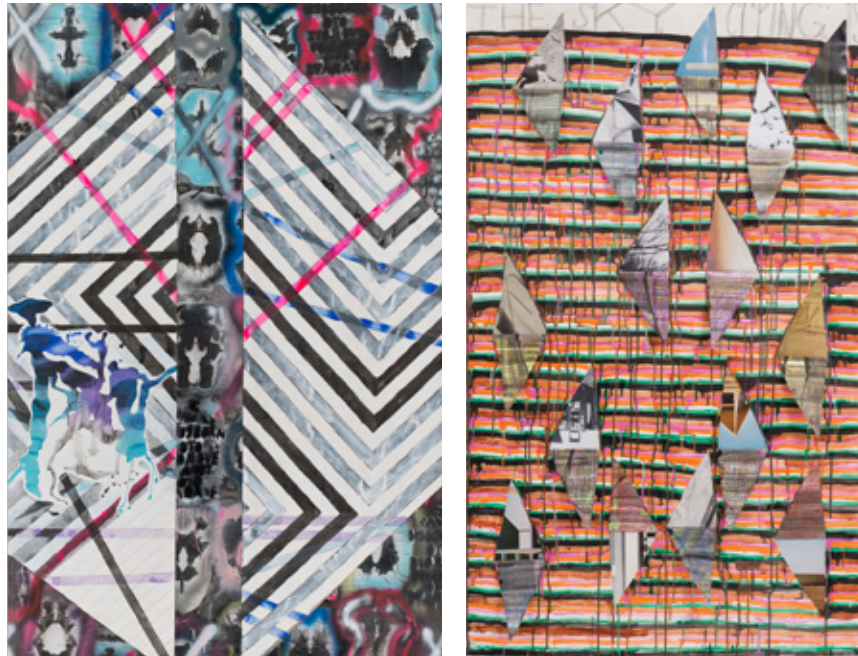
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 18, 2015

PRESS RELEASE

Alexandra Grant and Steve Roden: “These Carnations Defy Language”

June 14–November 1, 2015



Left: Alexandra Grant, *I was born to love not to hate (3)* [detail], 2015. Mixed media on paper backed with fabric, 126 x 72 inches. Courtesy of the Artist. Photo credit: Brian Forrest. Right: Steve Roden, *the sky crying is* [detail], 2015. Acrylic, sumi ink, collage, and magazine images, 65 x 36 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects. Photo: Jeff McLane.

Pasadena, CA — The Pasadena Museum of California Art is proud to present *Alexandra Grant and Steve Roden: “These Carnations Defy Language,”* a remarkable collaborative exhibition that began as a conversation between the artists about an anthology of the French poet Francis Ponge and, in particular, his poem “The Carnation.” This exhibition stems from that conversation, which presents new individual and co-created works by Grant and Roden that highlight their use of textual sources and their own conceptual systems to inspire and structure their production.

Grant’s paintings from her new series “Antigone 3000” continue her inquiry into literary texts as source material for her imagery. The works in “*These Carnations Defy Language*” explore and map the Greek myth of Antigone from the original basis of Sophocles’s text to a current exchange on her importance to future generations with Pasadena-based poet and artist Kate Durbin. Roden introduces a new body of work that explores an issue of the architecture and design magazine *Domus* that he found in his father’s basement from April 1964, the month that Roden was born. In a palette of black, green, white, salmon, pink, and dark brown, the paintings, drawings, collages, and a silent video also respond to Ponge’s use of permutations, repetition, and various points of view.

In addition, the exhibition includes a collaborative series of works on paper that explore a text that has inspired both artists: Francis Ponge’s *Mute Objects of Expression*, a book of poems from which the exhibition’s title is taken. The poet wrote, “Accept the challenge things offer to language. These carnations, for instance, defy language. I won’t rest till I have drawn together a few words that will compel anyone reading or hearing them to say: this has to do with something like a carnation.”

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Pushing the artists' interests in language and systems beyond the gallery walls, "These Carnations Defy Language" is accompanied by a brochure with an essay by Leslie Jones, Ph.D., Curator of Prints and Drawings at LACMA. The exhibition is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art.



(L to R): Alexandra Grant, *I was born to love not to hate (2)*, 2014. Mixed media on paper backed with fabric, 126 x 72 inches. Courtesy of the Artist. Photo credit: Brian Forrest; Steve Roden, *when this falls apart you will have to put it back together*, 2015. Acrylic, sumi ink, crayon, cardboard, embroidery thread, and pencil, 30 x 22 inches. Courtesy of the Artist and Susanne Vielmetter Los Angeles Projects. Photo: Jeff McLane.

Programs

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

Antigone 3000: Re-imagining Antigone in Word and Art

Saturday, June 20 • 2:00–4:00pm

Pasadena artist and poet Kate Durbin and "These Carnations Defy Language" artist Alexandra Grant are in an ongoing dialogue about the importance of Sophocles's *Antigone*. Join Durbin in creating your own version of Antigone's story in the form of a poetic text and a large collaborative collage, culminating in a dynamic group reading.

Space is limited. Email RSVP@pmcaonline.org

Artists' Walkthrough

Sunday, June 28 • 3:00pm

Artists Alexandra Grant and Steve Roden lead a walkthrough of their exhibition "These Carnations Defy Language."

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

Saturday, August 1 • 3:00–5:00pm

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

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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

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 for more information.

In Dialogue: A Conversation with Alexandra Grant, Leslie Jones, and Steve Roden

Sunday, September 27 • 1:00pm

"*These Carnations Defy Language*" artists Alexandra Grant and Steve Roden discuss their individual sources and processes as well as their collaborative works. Leslie Jones, Ph.D., Curator of Prints and Drawings at LACMA, moderates.

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 for more information.

PMCA 123

Free First Fridays (12:00–5:00pm)

July 3 • August 7 • September 4 • October 2

Second Saturday Docent Tours of *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent* & 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.

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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.

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