

MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Love Never Fails: The Art of Edouard and Luvena Vysekal
September 18, 2011 – January 8, 2012



Edouard Vysekal, *Figure in Shadows*, 1927, Oil on canvas, 36 x 34 inches, The Irvine Museum

PASADENA, CA - The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *Love Never Fails: The Art of Edouard and Luvena Vysekal*, the first museum exhibition to bring together the work of husband and wife Edouard and Luvena Vysekal. The couple became emblematic of modernism in a conservative art community, opening the door to an avant-garde aesthetic. Featuring over sixty paintings, sketches and photographs, the exhibition examines the deeply intertwined, but distinctive oeuvres of the two artists.

“Love Never Fails” was a favorite song of the couple, sung at their wedding and at his memorial service, a hymn that aptly describes their devotion to each other in marriage and in their artistic

practices. While Edouard's paintings in watercolor and oil of landscapes, cityscapes, nudes, still lifes, portraits, and allegorical subjects tended to be more experimental, ranging from Impressionism and Post-Impressionism to semi-abstraction, Luvena's portraits and still lifes in oil hewed closer to Realism. Both artists were notable for their use of color—bold and strong—as well as their sharp senses of humor, which would often permeate their portrait work. Together, they participated in exhibitions as members of the early progressive art organizations in Los Angeles, such as California Progressive Group as well more traditional art clubs like the California Art Club, gaining respect from modern and conservative critics and audiences alike. Edouard Vysekal also left his imprint on future artists as an instructor of drawing and painting at the Art Students League of Los Angeles and at the Otis Art Institute from 1922-1939.

Some of the works in the exhibition have never been exhibited and others have not been shown since 1954, when Luvena passed away and the Vysekal Studio Gallery was closed. Curated by Marian Yoshiki-Kovinick, co-curator of the critically acclaimed 2008 PMCA exhibition *A Seed of Modernism: The Art Students League of Los Angeles (1906-1953)*, the exhibition and accompanying catalogue will feature new research and insight into the work of the couple. Less than a quarter of a century after the Vysekals arrived on the Los Angeles art scene, they had established themselves as vital components, leaving a lasting imprint on the development of modernism in the city.



Image Credit (LEFT-RIGHT): Edouard Vysekal, *Mother and Children*, n.d., Watercolor on paper, 28 x 20 in., Collection of Sharon Hastings; Luvena Vysekal, *Still Life with Blue and Orange Flowers*, n.d., Oil on canvas, 8 x 10 in., Collection of Sharon Hastings

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, September 17, 2011

7:00 – 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

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