

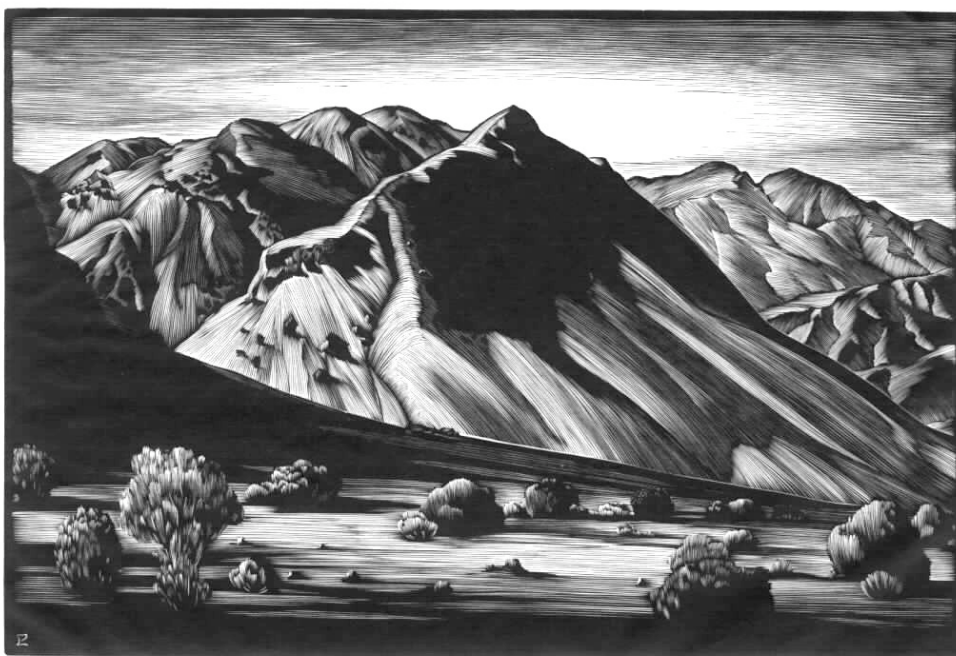
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **White on Black: The Modernist Prints of Paul Landacre** **October 28, 2012- February 24, 2013**



*Smoke Tree*, 9 x 7 inches. Wood block print. Collection of Debby and Bill Richards.

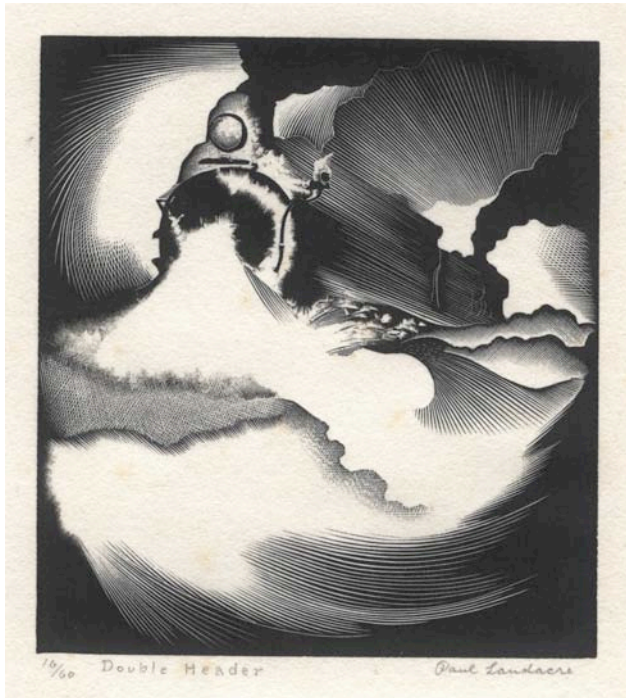
**PASADENA, CA** – The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *White on Black: The Modernist Prints of Paul Landacre*, Paul Landacre's wood engravings from 1930s, which proved to be the most prolific period of his career. While most artists who created black and white art used black lines on a white background, Landacre became renowned for doing the opposite: his engravings are white lines on a black background. In essence, he thought backwards, reversing the drawing process when making the initial designs and again while engraving the wood blocks.

Landacre's approach to the printing process with meticulous care: he carefully selected the wood, sanded and polished it and then skillfully engraved it. Using the finest ink and paper available, he hand inked the blocks and then printed each image one at a time on a cast iron hand press manufactured in the 1800's. This expert craftsmanship and Landacre's intuitive

grasp of how to use light and dark, made it possible for him to create the detailed and highly sensitive line work which gave his prints a wide variation of tonal values, ranging from pure white

to extremely deep black.

Using an approach that was at the heart of the progressive graphic art movement, Landacre's work was considered abstract, with a main image based on recognizable subject matter, surrounded by non-objective shapes and patterns. In American and European art circles he was known as a



*Double Header.*

Progressive Modernist, yet his fine art prints were appreciated and praised by even the most conservative art critics.

All of his woodblock prints were engraved and printed at his home on "The Hill" in the Edendale district (now Echo Park) of Los Angeles, and many of his prints feature the neighborhood around his house. Many of the prints in the exhibition are from the collection of Hollywood luminary Delmer Daves who was a huge champion of Landacre's work. When the artist faced financial problems during the Great

Depression, Daves, renowned bookseller and gallery-owner Jake Zietlen, who gave Landacre

his first exhibition, and book designer Ward Richie formed the Landacre Association, to which each of Landacre's collectors would contribute \$100. These contributions supported Landacre's printmaking and the collectors, in turn, would receive one of the editions of each of his prints. As Daves always received the first of each series, many of the engravings now on view in the exhibition are numbered "1."

During this time, Landacre became recognized as one the most important printmakers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, emerging as one of the leaders in an American revival of fine art wood engraving. After the 1930s, he devoted less time to his own practice, choosing to focus his energies on

making prints for books and on teaching at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles where he worked until he passed away in 1963.

The exhibition features close to twenty-five prints and is curated by Gordon McClelland, an art historian and seminal figure in advancing the field of research in California Style watercolors.

**OPENING RECEPTION**

Saturday, October 27, 2012

7:00 – 9:00 pm

\$5 admission

Free for PMCA Members

**Mission:**

The mission of the Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is to present the evolution of California art and design through exhibitions that explore the cultural dynamics and influences that are unique to California.

**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 Christine Goo at 626-568-3665 x18.

**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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