

MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2014

Burning Down the House: Ellen Brooks, Jo Ann Callis, Eileen Cowin

September 14, 2014 – January 11, 2015



Jo Ann Callis, *Woman Juggling*, 1984. Cibachrome print, 28 ½ x 23 ¾ inches. The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Gift of Jo Ann Callis.

Pasadena, CA – The Pasadena Museum of California Art is proud to present *Burning Down the House: Ellen Brooks, Jo Ann Callis, Eileen Cowin*. Exhibited together for the first time, these three contemporary artists, long known for using photography to narrative ends, challenge both the role of women and their chosen medium in multi-layered, provocative images. Taking its title from the eponymous *Talking Heads* song, the exhibition explores issues of female identity, gender relations, and the politics of domesticity in a series of photographs.

Brooks, Callis, and Cowin emerged simultaneously in 1970s Southern California and have since become nationally recognized artists. Their photographic *tableaux* are like illicit reveries and performances—“shakedown dreams in broad daylight,” as the Talking Heads might have called them—that reflect a multitude of private torments and obsessions. Upending conventional ideas, both about woman and photography, all three artists convey an intimate knowledge of the delights and terrors of the contemporary female experience. *Burning Down the House: Ellen Brooks, Jo Ann Callis, Eileen Cowin* highlights the ways in which the artists approach similar ideas from their unique vantage points as well as how they each branched out into conceptual practices involving photography, sculpture, video, and performance.

Curated by Sam Mellon and Claudia Bohn-Spector, the exhibition includes works from the mid-1970s through the early 2000s. Ranging from small individual photographs to large-scale sequences comprised of several prints, the installation freely intermixes work by the three artists, exploring issues of female identity, relationship, intimacy, domestic conflict, and gender performance. An illustrated brochure will accompany the exhibition with a short interpretive essay by Mellon and Bohn-Spector.

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Left:
Ellen Brooks, *Guarded Future*, 1980.
Cibachrome print, 40 x 30 inches.
Courtesy of the Artist.

Right:
Eileen Cowin, *Untitled from One Night Stand*, 1977–78. Digital inkjet print, 20 x 24 inches. Courtesy of the Artist.

Programs

OPENING RECEPTION*

Saturday, September 13, 2014 | 7–9pm

\$5 admission | Free for PMCA members

*Complimentary parking is available in our Kosmic Krylon Garage. For our reception only, additional parking is available in the adjacent lot at Union Street and Oakland Avenue (entrance on Oakland).

INSIGHT TALK

Sunday, September 14, 2014 | 3pm

Join *Burning Down the House* curators Claudia Bohn-Spector and Sam Mellon for an introduction to the exhibition and hear artists Ellen Brooks, Jo Ann Callis, and Eileen Cowin discuss their process and how issues of gender and identity have shaped their work.

FAMILY DAY

Saturday, September 27, 2014 | 2–5pm

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

ARTNIGHT PASADENA

Friday, October 10, 2014 | 6–10pm

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and complimentary shuttle transportation at the PMCA and other cultural destinations around Pasadena.

IN DIALOGUE | WE HAVE NO ART**

Saturday, October 11, 2014 | 3pm

Writer Alissa Walker, graphic designers Juliette Bellocq and Louise Sandhaus, and former student Jan Steward consider Corita Kent’s influence and legacy within the Los Angeles design community.

**A series of events leading up to the exhibition *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*—a full-scale survey of work by the innovative artist, activist, and teacher—opening in June 2015

KOSMIC KRYLON CARNIVAL

Saturday, November 8, 2014 | 7–10pm

Join us for a carnival-themed benefit event celebrating the 10th anniversary of our Kosmic Krylon Garage, which features spray-paint murals by street artist Kenny Scharf. Don’t miss the opportunity to see him paint his famous KARBOMBZ!

More info: **PMCA.EVENTBRITE.COM**

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MLK DAY CELEBRATION | WE HAVE NO ART**

Saturday, January 17, 2015 | 10am–2pm

In the spirit of 1960s “Mary’s Days,” All Saints Episcopal Church teams up with the PMCA and Day One to host a festive banner-making project focused on public/world health, culminating with a procession to the Museum, City Hall, and Day One, before returning to enjoy food trucks in the All Saints courtyard.

**A series of events leading up to the exhibition *Someday is Now: The Art of Corita Kent*—a full-scale survey of work by the innovative artist, activist, and teacher—opening in June 2015

PMCA 123

1) Free the first Friday of every month (12–5pm)

2) Docent tour the second Saturday of every month (2pm, starting in October)

3) Free the third Thursday of every month (5–8pm)

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

Please visit pmcaonline.org/calendar for additional programs and events.

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, 12–5pm; third Thursday of every month, 5–8pm; 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 every month (12–5pm); free the third Thursday of every month (5–8pm). 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 (2pm; free with admission). Docent tours are also available Wednesday–Friday, 12–5pm, 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, please 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.