

MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2013

California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960 March 10, 2013–July 28, 2013



Emil Kosa Jr., *Near Modesto*, 1940. Oil on canvas, 22 x 28 inches.
Mark and Janet Hilbert Collection.

PASADENA, CA – The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960*, on view at the museum from March 10, 2013 to July 28, 2013. Part of the larger Regionalist art movement of the 1930s–1960s era, California Scene Painting—a term first used by *Los Angeles Times* art critic Arthur Millier—describes representational art that captured scenes of everyday life in California. Through the New Deal Relief programs, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) assisted struggling artists by providing them with wages to create artworks for government buildings and public places intended to uplift the nation's spirits amidst the Great Depression. *California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960* documents much of this period in California history through works that depict local city and rural scenes, particularly in and around Los Angeles and San Francisco, which were rapidly expanding during that time.

Characterized by a sense of humanity, the works in the exhibition typically include people or representations of man made creations. The California Scene artists related what they saw around them: people going about their everyday lives, factories, a growing car culture, ranches and agrarian communities. Despite a shifting interest toward abstract and non-objective art during the 1950s, practitioners of California Scene Painting continued to create artworks documenting developments in California history, such as the building of freeways and the formation of California Beach Culture.

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960

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Curated by Gordon T. McClelland, *California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960* features close to 75 artworks, including oil paintings, watercolors, drawings and prints created in the decades when this was California's most celebrated type of art. Some of the works in this exhibition were included in 1930s and 1940s exhibitions of Regionalist, American Scene, and WPA art in major museums across America. Works by key artists are featured in the exhibition, including Phil Dike, Emil Kosa Jr., Phil Paradise, Millard Sheets, Paul Sample, Ben Messick, Rex Brandt, and Dong Kingman. A large format book, titled *California Scene Paintings*, accompanies the exhibition and visually documents artworks from this period and connects them to California's history.

This exhibition is curated by Gordon T. McClelland. This exhibition is supported by Mark and Janet Hilbert, Hilbert Properties, Bente and Gerald E. Buck, Simon Chiu, George Stern Fine Arts, and The Historical Collections Council of California Art. Additional support is provided by E. Gene Crain, Whitney Ganz, William A. Karges, Pamela and Glen Knowles, Diane and Van Simmons, Michael and Mandy Johnson, Jeff Olsen, Fred Thompson, Bonhams & Butterfields, John Moran Auctioneers, and Claremont Fine Arts.



Phil Dike, *Plaza on Sunday*, 1942. Oil on canvas, 30 x 40 inches.
Mark and Janet Hilbert Collection.



Elmer Plummer, *Waiting for the Call*, 1935. Watercolor on paper,
14 x 18 inches. Collection of Jeff and Bernadette Olsen.

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, March 9, 2012 | 7–9pm

\$5 admission | Free for PMCA members

PLAN YOUR VISIT

490 East Union Street, Pasadena, CA 91101

626.568.3665 | pmcaonline.org

HOURS

Open Wednesday–Sunday, 12–5pm

Closed July 4th, Thanksgiving Day, 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 the month (all day)

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

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.

DOCENT TOURS

Available Wednesday–Friday, 12–5pm

Private groups of 10–50 people for \$75 total

\$40 deposit due two weeks in advance

GROUP RATES

Available for groups of 20+ for \$3 per person

Free for K–12 public school student groups

Please notify us at least one week in advance.

Contact Alexis Kaneshiro at 626.568.3665 x13
or akaneshiro@pmcaonline.org.

PROGRAMS

ArtNight Pasadena

Friday, March 8, 2013 / 6:00–10:00pm

Enjoy a free evening of art, music, and entertainment as Pasadena's most prominent arts and cultural institutions swing open their doors.

FREE

Opening Reception

Saturday, March 9, 2013 / 7:00–9:00pm

Join us for the opening reception for three new exhibitions.

\$5 admission | Free for PMCA members

Special Members-Only Hour

Sunday, March 10, 2013 / 11:00am–12:00pm

Members have the galleries to themselves before regular Museum hours.

Free for PMCA members

Insight Talk

Sunday, March 24, 2013 / 3:00pm

Join curator Gordon McClelland for a walkthrough of *California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960* to learn more about the paintings in the exhibition that capture scenes of everyday life and their connections to California's history.

Visiting Scholars

Sunday, May 12, 2013 / 3:00pm

Archivist and writer Morgan Yates examines *California Scene Paintings from 1930 to 1960* through one of its principal showcases, The Auto Club of Southern California's member magazine *Westways*. Dating from before the Depression through postwar abundance and beyond, *Westways'* promotion of recreational tourism embodied the tenets of this regional art movement. Yates will share works of numerous *Westways* cover artists who are represented in the *California Scene Paintings* exhibition.

Family Day

Saturday, June 22, 2013 / 3:00–5:00pm

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

All ages welcome!

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