

MEDIA CONTACT

Emma Jacobson-Sive, Director of Public Relations
626.568.3665 x12 / emma.jacobson@pmcaonline.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 6, 2013

Flora Kao: Homestead

January 19 – April 20, 2014



Photograph of *Flora Kao: Homestead* in progress in Wonder Valley, 2013. Image courtesy of the Artist.

Pasadena, CA – The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *Flora Kao: Homestead* on view from January 19 to April 20, 2014. The project highlights the poignant histories of the deserted shacks that dot the Mojave Desert, remnants of America's most recent wave of manifest destiny. In this installation, Kao focuses on a prefabricated cabin standing on the verge of collapse in Wonder Valley. The work explores human relationship to environment with respect to landscape, mapping, and notions of home and placelessness.

The Small Tract Act of 1938 allowed homesteaders to claim five acres of expendable public land, prompting a mid-century land rush by Los Angelenos into the neighboring desert. The majority of these structures were eventually abandoned due to the harshness of desert living. With dimensions defined by the government's minimum specifications for homesteading, the cabin in Wonder Valley stands eleven feet high and spans twelve by sixteen feet. Through life-size rubbings of each side of the dilapidated shack's four walls, Kao captures the homestead at a specific moment in its decay. Referencing grave rubbings and fossils, the technique recalls mourning, memorial, and archaeology.

Suspended vertically in the PMCA's Project Room, the canvas rubbings envelop the viewer in fields of gestural black marks that echo the original structure's form and texture. The project engages a cycle of visual transposition over time: the construction of a house, its decay to the elements, the aggregation of its trace on fabric, and the translation of this drawing into an architectonic experience of enclosure and movement. Mapping absence and presence, *Homestead* offers the viewer a visceral encounter with erasure and accumulation, inviting meditation on the ease and inevitability of loss in a land of new beginnings and deferred dreams.

Multimedia artist Flora Kao has exhibited solo at Commonwealth and Council, Gallery 825, Art Merge LAB, HAUS Gallery, the UC Irvine University Art Gallery, and the LA Art Show. Her work has also been featured at Torrance Art Museum, Culver



Photographs of *Flora Kao: Homestead* in progress in Wonder Valley, 2013.
Image courtesy of the Artist.

Center for the Arts, LAXART, See Line Gallery, Edward Cella Art & Architecture, Beacon Arts Building, West LA College, CSU Long Beach, and La Sierra University. Kao holds a MFA from UC Irvine in Studio Art, a BFA in Painting from Otis College of Art and Design, and a BA in Environmental Science and Public Policy from Harvard College.

Flora Kao: Homestead is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art. Kao is a recipient of an ARC grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation.

Programs

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, January 18, 2014 | 7–9pm

\$5 admission | Free for PMCA members

IN DIALOGUE

Sunday, February 9, 2014 | 3pm

Join artist Flora Kao and independent curator Howard Fox for a conversation on home, mapping, trace, and ruin in relation to *Homestead*.

ARTNIGHT PASADENA

Friday, March 14, 2014 | 6–10pm

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

FAMILY DAY

Saturday, April 5, 2014 | 3–5pm

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

PMCA 123

- 1) Free the first Friday of every month (12–5pm)
- 2) 2pm docent tour the second Saturday of every month
- 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 (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.