

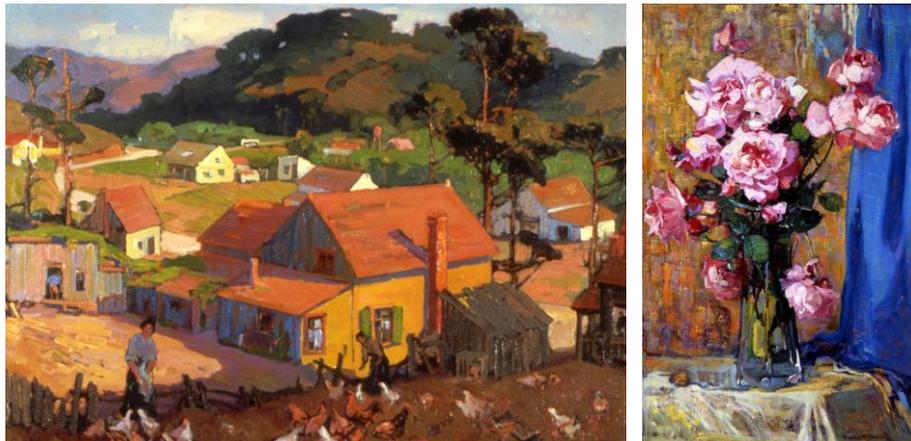
MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 9, 2010

Gardens and Grandeur: Porcelains and Paintings by Franz A. Bischoff
November 21, 2010 – March 20, 2011



LEFT-RIGHT: *Afternoon Idyll, Cambria, c.1922*, oil on canvas, 19 x 26 inches, Collection of Paul and Kathleen Bagley; *Roses in a Tall Glass Vase*, oil on canvas, 32 x 20 inches, The James Irvine Swinden Family Collection

PASADENA, CA - The Pasadena Museum of California Art is proud to present *Gardens and Grandeur: Porcelains and Paintings by Franz A. Bischoff*, the most inclusive retrospective to date, on view from November 21, 2010 – March 20, 2011. The exhibition highlights both Franz A. Bischoff's early ceramic work, with close to two-dozen pieces included, as well as his later practice on canvas. His exquisite rendering of flowers, particularly roses, earned Bischoff the nickname, "King of the Rose Painters."

Born in Bomen, Austria, Bischoff trained early on at a local craft school before he went to Vienna to study painting, design and porcelain decoration. After immigrating to New York in 1885, he was able to market his skills as a china decorator and quickly gained prominence as one of the preeminent china painters of his day. He founded the Bischoff School of Ceramic Art in both Detroit and New York where he developed his own special glazes, and his porcelains were included in the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. He lived in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan before finally settling in Pasadena in 1906.

In California, Bischoff's work turned to landscape paintings, with an emphasis on the plein air style. The artist drew inspiration from California's sun-kissed views and its distinctive light and atmosphere, painting vistas from Monterey Bay and Laguna Beach, to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. He joined two of Southern California's most notable art associations, the California Art Club and the Laguna Beach Art Association, and soon became one of the leading members of a group of California Impressionist painters that included William Wendt, Carl Oscar Borg, and Guy Rose.

In 1912, he returned to Europe to study the Old Masters and French Impressionism, which helped expand his use of composition. His work after this period shifted to a more pronounced palette, which allowed for a vibrant juxtaposition of complementary colors. His dramatic use of color was even described as suggestive of Fauvism. Through the 1920s, he continued to paint the Southern California coastlines and mountains, as well as the desert near Palm Springs. Some of his most charming works were painted in the small central California village of Cambria. In 1928, he and his friend the artist John Christopher Smith traveled to Utah, where they painted in Zion National Park. He died at home on February 5, 1929. *Gardens and Grandeur* examines Franz A. Bischoff's life-long foray into diverse subject matter and varied materials.

This exhibition is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art and guest curated by Jean Stern, the Executive Director of the Irvine Museum. The exhibition will also travel to the Crocker Art Museum and the Irvine Museum, accompanied by a new monograph on the artist by Jean Stern.



California Poppies, porcelain vase, 13.75 inches high, Collection of the Irvine Museum

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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 at 626-568-3665 x17.

PMCA Information:

For information, the please call 626-568-3665 or visit the website: www.pmcaonline.org