

MEDIA CONTACT

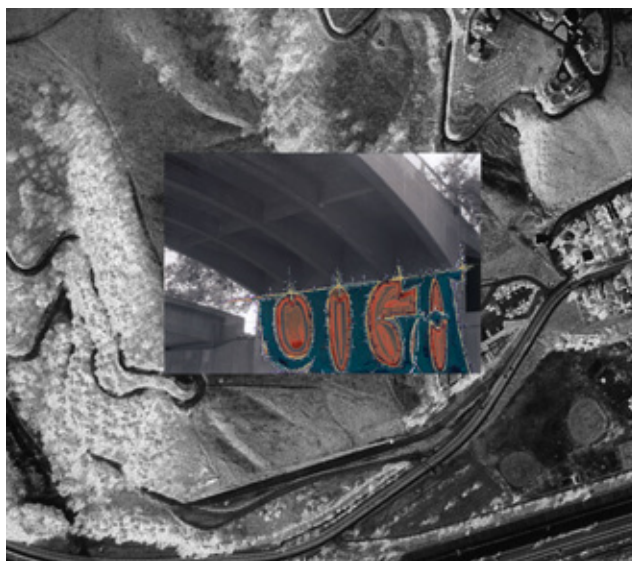
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 4, 2013

Meander

March 10, 2013–July 28, 2013



John O'Brien, *Meander* [detail from scale model maquette of *Meander*], 2012. Ink, acrylic paint, and digital photo on matte paper and drawing. Courtesy of the artist and Causey Contemporary, New York.

PASADENA, CA – The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present Los Angeles artist John O'Brien's *Meander* on view March 10 to July 28, 2013. The installation title references a literal meandering up and around the Arroyo Seco Parkway, which the artist recounts through this installation, as well as the process of "meandering" at the core of his practice. In addition to photographs taken during walks along the parkway that link O'Brien's downtown Los Angeles Studio and Pasadena, the installation is comprised of digital and painted underpass images coupled with a freestanding sculpture in which the linear forms of the freeway and the curves of the offramps are registered as quasi letter forms. All of this is fused together into a loosely knit composite visual artwork in the PMCA Project Room.

Juxtaposing large-scale cartographic images of the Arroyo Seco Parkway inset with smaller images of underpasses, O'Brien explores the tension between functionality and reverie that underscores the meandering. Using rational marking systems as a point of departure—from writing to the constructed environment—he charts how those systems overlay the natural landscape, activate the imagination and memory, and, ultimately, inform the viewer's understanding of the separate parts of the environment as a whole. The resulting visual impact is determined by the artist's intent to re-create his own awakening to the wonder of this particular "meander," a moment in which things largely un-noticed or ignored

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

Meander

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suddenly come into view. O'Brien freely embellishes the moment with tangents and personal asides so the end result is less a communication of something specific or literal, but rather is aimed at creating a perceptual opening and a refreshed poetic awareness of the world that we navigate regularly without really looking attentively at it.

John O'Brien graduated from the Accademia di Belle Arti in Rome Italy with an AA.BB. in 1982, he was qualified as a Master Printer at the Calcografia Nazionale in 1984 and obtained an MFA from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles in 1989. In 2008 and 2010, he had solo exhibitions at Kristi Engle Gallery, Los Angeles. He was also recently included in group exhibitions at Bushberg Project, Newark, NJ, Los Angeles Valley College Art Gallery, Valley Glen, CA, Palazzo degli Scalzi, Sassoferrato (Ancona), Villa Dora, San Giorgio di Nogaro, Italy, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, Samson Projects, Boston, MA, Center for the Arts, Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, CA and Angels Gate Cultural Center, San Pedro, CA.

John O'Brien is a recipient of an ARC Grant from the Center for Cultural Innovation.

This exhibition is supported by the Board of Directors of the Pasadena Museum of California Art.



John O'Brien, *Meander* [detail from scale model maquette of *Meander*], 2012. Ink, acrylic paint, and digital photo on matte paper and drawing. Courtesy of the artist and Causey Contemporary, New York.

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, June 16, 2013 / 3:00pm

Join artist John O'Brien for a walkthrough of his exhibition *Meander*. Afterwards, gain insight into O'Brien's process during a short "meander" led by the artist to nearby sites in Pasadena that feature public artworks and other unnoticed but notable urban features.

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.