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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tales from the Strip: The Hot Rod Comics and Drag Racing Cartoons of Pete Millar

June 1 –September 14, 2008

Pasadena, CA- *Tales from the Strip* is the first comprehensive museum exhibition to recognize the legendary hot rod and drag racing cartoonist Pete Millar (1929 – 2003). After finding his original inspiration from the artists of *Mad Magazine*'s heyday in the 1950s and 1960s, Millar turned his drawing skills to humorous situations involving souped-up cars and their errant drivers, as well as his spoofs of actual personalities and controversies during the rapid growth of the drag racing culture in California. Millar's virtuoso drawing abilities were nurtured by his training as an engineering draftsman and first hand experience as



Image Courtesy of Estate of Pete Millar



Image Courtesy of Estate of Pete Millar

a drag racer. He built and drove three dragsters while he published his drawings and comic strips in *Drag Racing*, *Hot Rod* and *Rod & Custom*, and produced his own periodicals, *CAR'toons*, *Drag Cartoons*, *Big Daddy Roth Magazine* and *Drag Comics*. Millar is considered one of the greatest satirical cartoonists, working within the hot-rodding and drag racing communities.

The exhibition will include over 40 original drawings and paintings from the Millar estate and will also feature numerous vintage publications from both the

golden age of drag racing and the recent era of hot rod nostalgia.

The exhibition is curated by Gordon L. Fuglie who is currently the Curator of Exhibitions & Collections at San Luis Obispo Art Center. Fuglie's examination of Pete Millar's legacy is particularly appropriate as he is perhaps the only art curator of his generation to have participated as a hot-rodder and drag racer.

Tales from the Strip: The Hot Rod Comics and Drag Racing Cartoons of Pete Millar is generously supported by Bob and Edie Gartland.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

OPENING RECEPTION

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 7-9PM

Opening reception for *Kori Newkirk: 1997-2007* and *Tales from the Strip: Hot Rod Comics and Drag Racing Cartoons of Pete Millar*.

Free for Members. \$5 admission.

PMCA FAMILY DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 22, 3-5PM

Join us as we make fun art projects based on the artwork in our current exhibitions *Kori Newkirk* and *Tales from the Strip*. All ages are welcome. Snacks and drinks will be served.

Free for PMCA Members.

Free with museum admission, RSVP to 626-568-3665 x17

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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 \$3 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