

**MEDIA CONTACT**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 30, 2009

**Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting**  
**October 4, 2009 – January 31, 2009**

**LEFT-RIGHT:** Wayne Thiebaud, *Palm Street*, 2006-2007, oil on canvas, Private Collection, San Francisco, © Wayne Thiebaud/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY; Wayne Thiebaud, *Bakery Case*, 1996, oil on canvas, Thiebaud Family Collection, © Wayne Thiebaud/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

**Pasadena, CA** – The Pasadena Museum of California Art is proud to present *Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting*, a survey of more than one hundred twenty works drawn from the oeuvre of the celebrated painter. Thiebaud is best known for his vibrantly colored paintings of bakeries and delicatessens and has also specialized in Northern California landscapes, San Francisco cityscapes, and colorful beach scenes. A variety of these paintings will be on display along with prominent drawings and rarely seen figurative works spanning his career. This exhibition marks Thiebaud's first solo exhibition in Pasadena since *Wayne Thiebaud*, at the Pasadena Art Museum in 1968.

One of America's great living artists, Thiebaud's distinctive vision embraces different subjects and stylistic variations but is always characterized by his blending of realism and abstraction. His work has been categorized as Pop Art, California Pop, and California Realism amongst others, but his singular style cannot be restricted to any one category. With his penchant for dazzling sunlight and high-keyed color, and a gift for painterly, sensuous handling of oils and other media, his paintings

link high art with popular culture. They combine the dramatic and witty, the formal and intimate; all the while retaining the sunny optimism that makes his work quintessentially Californian. The inclusion of his graceful drawings reveals that he had a talent for drafting in addition to his keen eye for color.

Born in Arizona and raised in Long Beach, Wayne Thiebaud took up drawing as a young child and eventually apprenticed in the animation department of Walt Disney Studios. He subsequently worked odd jobs as a sign painter, cartoonist, and illustrator after high school. From 1942-45 Thiebaud served in the U.S. Army Air Force in Special Services where he created a newspaper cartoon strip and worked on murals, photography, and map projects. He received his B.A. and M.A. from California State College in Sacramento.

In 1960 he began teaching at the University of California, Davis, where he has remained on the faculty ever since (as Professor Emeritus since 1990). In the summer of 2009, his work was part of the group exhibition *You See: The Early Years of the UC Davis Studio Art Faculty* at the Pasadena Museum of California Art which explored the remarkable period when he, Roy de Forest, Manuel Neri, William T. Wiley and Robert Arneson all taught at the school. In 1962 his works were exhibited in the groundbreaking exhibition *New Painting of Common Objects*, curated by Walter Hopps at the Pasadena Art Museum, now the Norton Simon Museum. One of the first Pop Art exhibitions in America, the exhibition also included Andy Warhol, Ed Ruscha, Roy Lichtenstein and Jim Dine. His work continued to be included in exhibitions and two large-scale retrospectives of his work that traveled nationally were organized in 1985 and 2000. The PMCA is thrilled to welcome Wayne Thiebaud back to Pasadena and to reflect on his exhilarating career.

*Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting* is curated by Dr. Steven Nash, Executive Director of the Palm Springs Museum of Art.



## **PUBLIC PROGRAMS**

Wayne Thiebaud, *Two Kneeling Figures*, 1966, oil on canvas, Collection of Paul LeBaron Thiebaud, © Wayne Thiebaud/Licensed by VAGA, New York, NY

## **OPENING RECEPTION**

Saturday, October 3, 2009, 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Opening Reception for *Wayne Thiebaud: 70 Years of Painting* and *Behold the Day: The Color Block Prints of Frances Gearhart*

\$5 admission

Free for PMCA Members

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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](http://www.pmcaonline.org)