



MEDIA CONTACT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker

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William S. Rice, *Guardian of the Timberline*. 1924. Color block print, 12 ½ x 14 ¾ inches.
Collection of Roberta Rice Tresder. © Ellen Treseder Sexauer

Pasadena, CA — The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker*, which offers a rare glimpse into the private world of William S. Rice (1873–1963), an artist and avid naturalist known for his ability to refine nature to its simplest forms. Featuring over 50 watercolors and block prints, the works, some on public view for the first time, illuminate the techniques and approaches Rice used to singularly capture and depict the California landscape.

After graduating from the Pennsylvania School of Industrial Art in Philadelphia, Rice studied under famed illustrator Howard Pyle at the Drexel Institute. His illustrative sensibility was further developed as a staff artist at the *Philadelphia Times* before he was eventually lured to Northern California by the Arts and Crafts movement. There, he joined friend Frederick Meyer, who had established the California Guild of Arts and Crafts (today the California College of Arts). In an article in the Pennsylvania newspaper *The Manheim Sentinel* that Rice wrote in 1900, he described his arrival on the west coast: “We were in California at last, that wonderful country that I had read so much about and so often longed to see. The strange trees and shrubbery, the redwoods, cedars, pines and live oaks, and the wondrously blue skies were the undeniable proofs of that fact.” This passion for the state infused his work, and as he continued to hone his practice, he took special interest in Japanese block prints and *ukiyo-e* (“pictures of the floating world”), ultimately transforming the Japanese polychrome technique into graphic distillations of California’s untrammelled scenery, favoring strong, stylized lines and planes of pure color.

Although particularly well known for his block prints and as author of two books for students on the process, he was also an accomplished watercolorist and often traveled to sketch on site in the peace of nature, or as he put it, in the “glorious woods,” producing evanescent visions of Santa Cruz, Stockton, and Yosemite, among other sites. *The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker* sheds light on the artist’s varied achievements, including several never-before-seen works capturing the pristine California landscape before urban development.

The Nature of William S. Rice: Arts and Crafts Painter and Printmaker is organized by the Crocker Art Museum in Sacramento.

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

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FAR LEFT

William S. Rice, *Bert's Iris*, c. 1920. Color block print, 12 x 9 inches. Collection of Roberta Rice Tresder. © Ellen Treseder Sexauer

LEFT

William S. Rice, *Parrot & Butterfly*, c. 1925. Color block print, 12 x 9 inches. Collection of Roberta Rice Tresder. © Ellen Treseder Sexauer

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, 12:00–5:00pm; third Thursday of each month, 5:00–8:00pm; 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 each month (12:00–5:00pm); free the third Thursday of each month (5:00–8:00pm). 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 (2:00pm; free with admission). Docent tours are also available Wednesday–Friday, 12:00–5:00pm, 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, 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.