



## Gustave Baumann in California

March 5-August 6, 2017



Gustave Baumann, *Redwood*, 1934; printed in 1960. Color woodcut, 71/125; 12 $\frac{7}{8}$  × 12 $\frac{7}{8}$  inches. Courtesy Roger Genser, The Prints and the Pauper, Santa Monica, CA

**Pasadena, CA** — The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is proud to present *Gustave Baumann in California*. The first focused investigation of Gustave Baumann's (1881-1971) influential presence in California, the exhibition emphasizes the artist's affinity for the natural landscape of the United States as well as the intricate elements of his unique approach to printmaking. Trained in the German tradition of woodblock printing, Baumann adapted his skills to American subjects and became a pioneer in the development of color woodcuts in the U.S. An expressive carver and exceptional colorist, Baumann employed dramatic shifts of light, color, and pattern. The exhibition features approximately 35 works, including graphite, tempera, and gouache studies; woodcuts; and progressive proofs as well as Baumann's chosen printing press, the Midget Reliance. Hung alongside finished prints, the preparatory works provide an illuminating encounter with each stage of the printmaking process.

Born in Germany, Baumann immigrated to the United States in 1891. He lived and studied in Chicago and Munich before traveling throughout America, finally settling in Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 1918. Influenced by early exposure to commercial engraving, night classes at the Art Institute of Chicago, and a year spent in Munich where he learned the European tradition of color relief printing as well as inspired by his camaraderie with other artists and his travels to rural and picturesque locales in the United States, Baumann developed his own woodcut style. After careful study of his surroundings and often, immersion in nature, he created colorful gouache sketches, which he meticulously carved

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into a series of woodblocks. Unlike most of his contemporaries who followed the Japanese style of hand rubbing, Baumann ran his blocks through a press, often without the black outline of a key block. He then selected series of vibrant color palettes inspired by the places he observed to make his landscape masterpieces come to life.

Although the artist is best known for his bucolic scenes of the Midwest and his resplendent imagery of the American Southwest, he made twelve powerful color woodcuts depicting the natural beauty of the Golden State. Inspired by seven automobile trips to California between 1927 and 1940 and long drives up the scenic coast from San Diego to San Francisco, the works portray California's coastline; its redwood, sequoia, and Torrey pine forests; and its Spanish-influenced architecture.

The exhibition brings Baumann's California works together with a selection of his formative color woodcuts of rural Brown County, Indiana—five from his *In the Hills o' Brown* series and three of his largest color prints. It was during the seven years (1910-1918) spent in Brown County that the artist first devoted himself as a color woodblock artist, and in 1915, he exhibited the aforementioned Indiana woodcuts at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition (PPIE) in San Francisco, where he won a gold medal for printmaking, which will also be on display. Fellow printmakers Frances Gearhart and William S. Rice encountered the Indiana prints at the PPIE, and a print by each of the artists will also be on view, demonstrating Baumann's influence on California artists and importance to the color woodcut revival.

On view in the PMCA's South Gallery, *Gustave Baumann in California* reveals California's and America's vibrant colors and scenic vistas through the eyes of a master artist. The exhibition places Baumann's completed works in context with his studies, woodblocks, and progressive prints, highlighting his artistic process and revealing the hand and heart of this consummate craftsman.

*Gustave Baumann in California* is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art, curated by Susan Futterman, and accompanied by a brochure. The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors, the PMCA Ambassador Circle, and Lead Supporter the Ann Baumann Trust. Additional funding is provided by Corinna Cotsen and Lee Rosenbaum, Erica and Vin Di Bona, Harvey and Ellen Knell, Joanne and Bruce Korner, Hannah and Russel Kully, Arnold Siegel, Jonas B. Siegel, Lauren Siegel, Reba and Geoffrey Thomas, Betsey Tyler, Reba White Williams, The Annex Galleries, John Moran Auctioneers, and Westmount Asset Management. Support for children's educational programming is provided by a generous grant from the John and Beverly Stauffer Foundation.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Gustave Baumann, *Windswept Eucalyptus*, 1929; printed in 1936. Color woodblock print, 9 5/8 x 11 3/8 inches. The Ann Baumann Trust, courtesy of The Annex Galleries; Gustave Baumann, *San Francisco*, 1935. Tempera and graphite on paper, 9 x 10 5/8 inches. Collection of Zach Nelson and Elizabeth Horn

## **Related Programs**

*Unless otherwise noted all programs are free with admission and no reservations are required.*

### **ArtNight Pasadena**

**Friday, March 10 • 6:00–10:00pm**

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and complimentary shuttle transportation at the PMCA and other cultural destinations around Pasadena. Pasadena Rose Poets read at PMCA.

### **Exhibition Walkthrough: Capturing California**

**Saturday, March 18 • 4:00pm**

Curator Susan Futterman leads a walkthrough of *Gustave Baumann in California*, from Baumann's portfolio *In the Hills o' Brown*, for which he won a gold medal at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, to his strikingly picturesque Californian subjects. Along the way, Futterman highlights and discusses each step of the artist's unique printing process.

### **Children's Workshop: Watercolor Nature Studies**

**Saturday, March 25 • 2:00–4:00pm**

Take inspiration from the remarkable beauty of the California landscape to create a watercolor nature study. This workshop begins with a family-friendly spotlight tour of the gouache landscape studies in *Gustave Baumann in California*. *Drop-ins and all ages welcome! Caregivers must accompany children.*

### **Printmaking Workshop with Yoshiko Yamamoto**

**Saturday, May 13 • 1:00–4:00pm**

Join artist Yoshiko Yamamoto for a printmaking workshop. Design, carve, and print a linoleum block with one of the founders of The Arts & Crafts Press, which specializes in limited-edition block prints and letterpress-printed note cards. *Space is limited to 14 people, appropriate for ages 15 and up. \$65; \$55 for PMCA members. Register at [bit.ly/pmcaworkshops](http://bit.ly/pmcaworkshops)*

### **In Dialogue: Printmaking in California**

**Saturday, May 20 • 1:00pm**

Join us in the South Gallery for a seated conversation about *Gustave Baumann in California*. Susan Futterman, curator of the exhibition, and Gala Chamberlain, Director of The Annex Galleries and author of Baumann's forthcoming catalogue raisonné discuss Baumann's unique process and influential presence in California.

### **Family Day**

**Saturday, May 27 • 12:00–5:00pm**

Participate in fun art projects and gallery tours for the whole family based on our current exhibitions. Activities include gesture drawing, self-portraiture, sculpture, and more. At 1:00pm and 3:00pm, join us for family-friendly tours of artwork on view in the galleries.

*Drop-ins and all ages welcome! Caregivers must accompany children.*

### **PMCA's 15th Birthday**

**Friday, June 2 • 12:00–8:00pm**

Join us for the festivities! Enjoy free admission, extended hours, special programs, extra discounts, and more as we celebrate our fifteenth anniversary.

### **Children's Workshop: Printmaking**

**Saturday, July 22 • 2:00–4:00pm**

Inspired by the prints in *Gustave Baumann in California*, carve an eraser stamp, then use it to create a printed ink design. This workshop begins with a family-friendly spotlight tour of Gustave Baumann's woodcut prints.

*Drop-ins and all ages welcome! Caregivers must accompany children.*

### **Patterned Tote Workshop**

**Saturday, July 29 • 2:00–4:00pm**

In this workshop with Erin Dollar, founder of Los Angeles-based Cotton & Flax, create unique block prints to stamp onto a cotton tote bag. Dollar provides instructions on carving and how to use color and repeating patterns to create fun and modern designs.

*Space is limited to 15 people, appropriate for ages 15 and up. \$49; \$39 for PMCA members. Register at [bit.ly/pmcaworkshops](https://bit.ly/pmcaworkshops)*

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## MONTHLY PROGRAMMING

### **Free First Fridays • 12:00–5:00pm**

Enjoy free admission all day!

**April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7 & August 4**

### **Second Saturday Spotlight Talks • 2:00pm**

A PMCA docent leads an engaging and insightful 20-minute discussion about a work of art currently on view in the Museum.

**March 11** • *Gustave Baumann in California*

**April 8** • *The Golden Twenties: Portraits and Figure Paintings by Joseph Kleitsch*

**May 13** • *Interstitial*

**June 10** • *Gustave Baumann in California*

**July 8** • *The Golden Twenties: Portraits and Figure Paintings by Joseph Kleitsch*

### **Free Third Thursday Evenings (& Then Some) • 5:00–8:00pm**

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and free programs!

#### **Random Acts of Music**

**March 16 • 5:30–7:30pm**

Enjoy the sweet sounds of a harpist inside our Main Gallery. Random Acts of Music is a program of the Pasadena Symphony Association and supported by The James Irvine Foundation, The Kenneth T. and Eileen L. Norris Foundation, The Pasadena Arts & Culture Commission and the City of Pasadena Cultural Affairs Division, and The Rose Hills Foundation.

#### **Yoga**

**April 20 • 6:45–7:45pm**

Reflect on the beauty of art and the beauty within during an all-levels yoga class led by Brianna Smyk. Find your breath, engage the visual, and balance all the senses in a workout for the mind and body.

*Please bring your own mat. Limited capacity. First come, first served.*

#### **In Dialogue: *Interstitial* Artists**

**May 18 • 6:45–7:45pm**

Curator John David O'Brien and select *Interstitial* artists come together for a conversation about their works in the exhibition and how they relate to the concept of interstitial space. Q&A to follow.

### **Yoga**

**June 15 • 6:45–7:45pm**

Reflect on the beauty of art and the beauty within during an all-levels yoga class led by Brianna Smyk. Find your breath, engage the visual, and balance all the senses in a workout for the mind and body.

*Please bring your own mat. Limited capacity. First come, first served.*

### **In Dialogue: *Interstitial* Artists**

**July 20 • 6:45–7:45pm**

Curator John David O'Brien and select *Interstitial* artists come together for a conversation about their works in the exhibition and how they relate to the concept of interstitial space. Q&A to follow.

## **Free Fourth Wednesdays Wee-Reads • 10:30-11:30am**

After a kid-friendly exhibition tour, return to the Project Room where Miss Leah reads children's literature that connects art and learning. Then get creative during PMCA-led activities that integrate the themes of specially selected stories, basic elements of art, and the artwork in the PMCA galleries.

*Recommended for children ages 2-5. Caregivers must accompany children.*

**March 22 • A Printmaking Journey**

**April 26 • Form a Face**

**May 24 • Color Outside the Box**

**June 28 • Do a Double Take**

**July 26 • Living in the Land**

Educational programs are made possible by a generous gift from Peggy Phelps and a grant from the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust.

## **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, 12:00–8:00pm; closed Monday, Tuesday, July 4, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

### **ADMISSION**

\$7 for adults; \$5 for seniors (62+); \$5 for students & educators; free for PMCA members and children (12 and under); 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.

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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 Membership, Visitor Services & Bookstore Associate, Aya Lehman, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email [alehman@pmcaonline.org](mailto:alehman@pmcaonline.org).

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit [pmcaonline.org](http://pmcaonline.org).