



**LA Redux:
Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner**
August 20, 2017–January 7, 2018



Dave Lefner, *The Los Angeles II*, 2009. Reduction linocut in eight colors, edition of 10, 13 x 36 inches. Collection of Ric and Jen Serena

Pasadena, CA — For the last 25 years native Angeleno and one of the country’s foremost reduction linocut artists Dave Lefner (b. 1969) has explored and recorded the historic and vintage characteristics of Los Angeles, from the sleek lines of mid-century American automobiles, to roadside signage for motels and mom and pop diners, to dilapidated neon theater marquees. A self-professed “old soul,” Lefner preserves the icons of America’s Golden Age in the exacting, time-consuming, and relatively lost art of reduction linocuts. The artist’s prints depict a nostalgia for the glamour of old Los Angeles with both a playfulness and masterful precision that belies their complex creation. *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*, an exhibition on view at the Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) from August 20, 2017–January 7, 2018, explores Lefner’s prints and practice, presenting a vivid picture of Los Angeles’s past and present as well as the ingenuity and creative processes the city continues to inspire.

While studying art at California State University, Northridge and experimenting with different media, Lefner discovered the reduction linocut printmaking technique. This painstaking process, greatly innovated by Pablo Picasso in the 1950s, requires the skills of an artisan and the vision and forethought of an artist. The combination of art and craft was particularly appealing to Lefner, who sought an art form that would challenge him as an artist and felt authentic amidst the disarray and cynicism that continued to engulf the postmodern art world in the 1990s.

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

LA Redux: Reduction Linocut Prints by Dave Lefner

Page 2/6

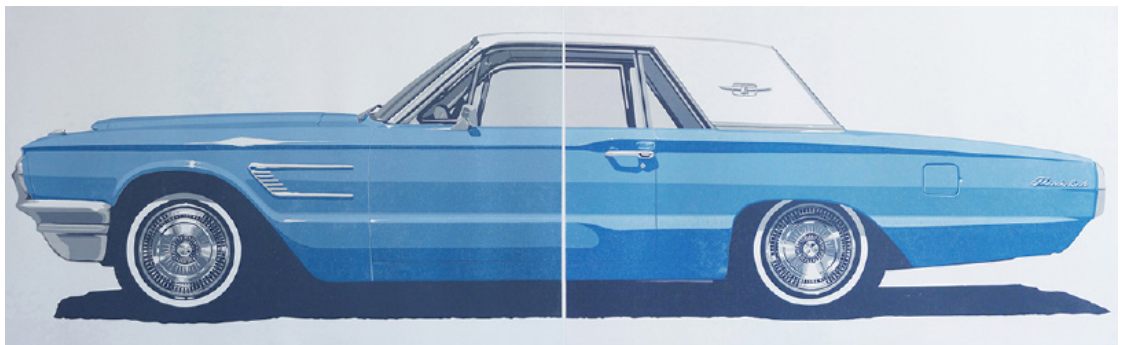
Armed with his newfound form of expression, Lefner focused on subject. Inspired by Picasso, Stuart Davis's abstracted paintings of New York City, LA architecture and car culture, typefaces and fonts, and the Ferus Gallery Pop artists, the urban landscape of Los Angeles became his principal muse. The artist's linocuts quickly began to reflect the sunny West Coast optimism of the post-war period. "My work is nostalgic, but I'm also very much a realist," says Lefner. "I love to imagine the history of this city, all shiny and new, with nighttime neon glowing bright. But most of the time, I'm drawn into the daylight details, when peeling paint, busted tubing, and lengthening shadows are cast like haunting specters of the past."

Very few artists today work in reduction linocuts, which are sometimes called "suicide prints" because of the potential for irreversible mistakes made during the carving and printmaking process. Working from his own photographs for reference, Lefner creates a charcoal drawing that is conversely transferred to a single block of linoleum. He then carves the block in stages, each stage creating a layer of color and part of the print's composition. A single, irreproducible edition takes weeks or even months to complete, usually totaling no more than seven prints. Despite the fastidious nature of reduction linocuts, Lefner remains unfazed and faithful to the city and craft he loves.

On view in the PMCA's Project Room, the exhibition celebrates the artist's significance as part of the Los Angeles and PMCA community. Not only does Lefner live and work at The Brewery, the world's largest artist colony, he also regularly leads printmaking workshops at the PMCA and is one of the honorees at the Museum's iFiesta Cubana! gala in fall 2017. Featuring approximately 10 prints, *LA Redux*, like the artist's retro prints, revives the bygone architecture, signage, and automobiles of Los Angeles while shining a neon spotlight on the artist's dedication to craft and the perpetuation of culture.

LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner is organized by the Pasadena Museum of California Art and curated by Sarah Mitchell, PMCA Director of Exhibitions. The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors, PMCA Ambassador Circle, and the California Visionary Fund. Media sponsorship is provided by *Carla*.

carla



Left to Right: Dave Lefner, *The El Rey Theater*, 2017. Reduction linocut in nine colors, edition of 10, 24 x 8 inches. Courtesy of the artist; Dave Lefner, *Fun, Fun, Fun*, 2015. Two reduction linocuts in nine colors, edition of 6, 22 x 72 inches. Courtesy of the artist

Related Programs

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free with admission and reservations are not required.

Opening Day

Sunday, August 20 | 12-5pm

Join us as we proudly unveil our three new exhibitions to the general public. See impressionist and modernist landscapes paired with the liturgical designs by one of California's most significant artists in *E. Charlton Fortune: The Colorful Spirit*; vibrant Cuban film posters that create understanding about the role of film, culture, art, and politics in Cuba and California in *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films*; and retro icons of classic Los Angeles by a native Angeleno and one of the country's foremost reduction linocut artists in *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*.

Block Printing Workshop

Saturday, August 26 | 2-4pm

Join *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner* artist Dave Lefner for a relief printmaking workshop. Carve a "soft-kut" block (6 x 9 inches) and run it through a press. Take home the resulting single-color, water-based ink print and a new skill. Please bring a simple image or design for inspiration.

Space is limited to 15 people. Appropriate for ages 15 and up.

\$35; \$25 for PMCA members. Register at bit.ly/pmcaworkshops.

Intersection: A Playhouse District Festival

Saturday, August 26 | 4-10pm

Drop by the PMCA table during the Playhouse District Association's Intersection festival, a free, end-of-summer street party. Enjoy live music, food and drink vendors, and craft activities, and contribute to the PMCA's community art mural inspired by our current exhibitions. Wisdom Arts Lab joins us for this free, public event.

Please note: This off-site event takes place on Colorado Boulevard between Madison Avenue and Oak Knoll Avenue.

Children's Workshop: Printmaking in LA

Saturday, September 9 | 2-4pm

Join us as we take a look at the exceptional reduction linocut prints of artist Dave Lefner on view in the Project Room exhibition *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*. Inspired by this local artist's printmaking process, use Styrofoam and ink to make prints of Los Angeles landmarks.

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

Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA Free Day

Sunday, September 17 | 12-5pm

Enjoy free admission in celebration of the Getty-led initiative Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA thanks to Bank of America. See PMCA's contribution to this exploration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles, *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films*, in the South Gallery as well as our other exhibitions on display, *E. Charlton Fortune: The Colorful Spirit* and *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*. Plus enjoy independent art-making activities in the Project Room. Free Day sponsored by Bank of America.



Presenting Sponsors



Smithsonian Magazine Presents Museum Day Live!

Saturday, September 23 | 12-5pm

Museum Day Live! is an annual celebration of boundless curiosity hosted by *Smithsonian* magazine. Participating museum and cultural institutions across the country provide entry to anyone presenting a Museum Day Live! ticket. Get yours at smithsonianmag.com/museumday.

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

LA Redux: Reduction Linocut Prints by Dave Lefner

Page 4/6

Fiesta Cubana! Fall Benefit

Saturday, October 7 | 7-10pm

Celebrate Cuba's history and affinity for film with traditional Cuban music, food, and a lively fiesta inspired by our *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films* exhibition. The event honors PMCA and art education patrons Christine & Reed Halladay and artist and arts educator Dave Lefner.

Tickets start at \$150. Visit bit.ly/fiesta_cubana_2017 for more details.

ArtNight Pasadena

Friday, October 13 | 6-10pm

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and complimentary shuttle transportation at the PMCA and other cultural institutions around Pasadena. CalArts SPRAWL presents "Car Plays," an interactive performance, in our *Kosmic Krylon Garage*.

Pasadena ARTWalk

Saturday, October 14 | 11am-6pm

Visit our art-making booth to design a Hollywood film poster and create block print designs inspired by *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films* and *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*. Present your ARTWalk sticker or program to receive free Museum admission.

Please note: This off-site event takes place on Colorado Boulevard between Madison Avenue and Oak Knoll Avenue.

PUSD Student & Educator Appreciation Day

Saturday, October 21 | 12-5pm

PMCA offers free admission all day long for Pasadena Unified School District educators, students, and their families.

Family Day

Saturday, November 4 | 12-5pm

Participate in fun art projects and gallery tours for the whole family based on our current exhibitions: *E. Charlton Fortune: The Colorful Spirit*, *Hollywood in Havana: Five Decades of Cuban Posters Promoting U.S. Films*, and *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner*. Activities include printmaking, poster design, and more. Wisdom Arts Lab joins us for a family-friendly woodworking activity. 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.*

Extended Second Saturday Artist Talk & Demo

Saturday, December 9 | 2-3pm

Meet in the Project Room for this special extended Second Saturday with the exhibition artist. Native Angeleno and one of the country's foremost reduction linocut artists Dave Lefner discusses the art in his exhibition *LA Redux: Reduction Linocuts by Dave Lefner* and demonstrates the exacting process of reduction linocut printing.

Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA Pasadena/San Marino Regional Day

Sunday, December 17 | 12:00-5:00pm

Enjoy free admission at the PMCA and visit other Pacific Standard Time: LA/LA cultural institutions (Armory Center for the Arts, The Huntington, and Pacific Asia Museum) for this regional celebration of Latin American and Latino art in dialogue with Los Angeles.



Presenting Sponsors



The Getty



Printmaking Workshop with Ernesto Vazquez

Saturday, December 16 | 1:00-5:00pm

Join Boyle Heights native Ernesto Vazquez for an in-depth printmaking workshop. Create a 5 x 7-inch linocut relief and prints to take home.

Space is limited to 15 people. Appropriate for ages 15 and up.

\$45; \$35 for PMCA members. Register at bit.ly/pmcaworkshops.

PMCA 1234

MONTHLY PROGRAMMING

Free First Fridays • 12:00–5:00pm

Enjoy free admission all day!

September 1 • October 6 • November 3 • December 1 • January 5

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.

September 9 & October 14 • *E. Charlton Fortune*

November 11 • *Hollywood in Havana* (with exhibition curator Carol A. Wells)

December 9 • *LA Redux* (extended talk and demo with exhibition artist Dave Lefner)

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

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and free programs!

Latino Los Angeles Reading • September 21 • 6–7pm

Gather together for a showcase of some of Southern California's most talented Latino writers. Hear Red Hen Press authors read their work in a range of genres and celebrate the traditions of Latin American literary heritage.

“Looking Out” • October 19 • 6–7:30pm

CalArts SPRAWL presents “Looking Out,” which includes artistic collaborations through readings, performances, and discussions led by CalArts students and alumni. The evening connects members of different creative communities, including artists from local university art programs.

Charlie Chaplin Movie Screening • November 16 • 5:30pm

In partnership with the Playhouse District Association's Hi Neighbor program and The Frida Cinema, Bob and Arlene Oltman host a screening of a Charlie Chaplin film in the Founders Gallery. Enjoy popcorn and snacks! Bring pillows and blankets to reserve the front rows or take a seat in one of PMCA's chairs. RSVP to rsvp@pmcaonline.org.

Holiday Cheer • December 21 • 6:00pm

Enjoy a free holiday concert amidst art in the Main Gallery exhibition *E. Charlton Fortune: The Colorful Spirit* with vocalists and musicians from Fuller Theological Seminary, and sing along to classic Christmas carols.

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

After a kid-friendly exhibition tour, return to the Project Room to read 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.

Museum open for Wee-Read participants only.

August 23 • Drawing the Family

September 27 • A Wheel of Colors

October 25 • Think Outside the Box

November & December • Wee-Reads are canceled due to the holidays. Please take the time to read a book with a child in your life!

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 & children (12 & 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. Free parking is available in the street-level garage 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 & Membership Manager, Aya Lehman, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email alehman@pmcaonline.org.

For more information, please call 626.568.3665 or visit pmcaonline.org.