



**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

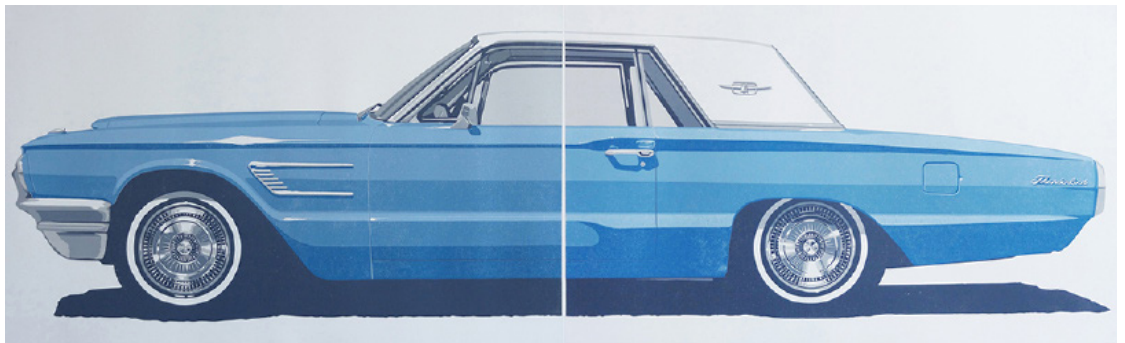
Page 2/4

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. The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors, PMCA Ambassador Circle, and the California Visionary Fund.



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

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 • November 11 • December 9

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

Enjoy free admission, extended hours, and free programs!

September 21 • October 19 • November 16 • December 21

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.

Museum open for Wee-Read participants only.

August 23 • September 27 • October 25 • November 22

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.

PASADENA MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

LA Redux: Reduction Linocut Prints by Dave Lefner

Page 4/4

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 & Membership Associate, Aya Lehman, at 626.568.3665 x14 or email alehman@pmcaonline.org.

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