



Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo

January 21–June 3, 2018

**Eduardo Carrillo's paintings highlight creative efforts and social importance
of artist, teacher, and social activist**



Eduardo Carrillo, *Cabin in the Sky*, 1966. Oil on board, 72 x 58 3/4 inches. Private collection

Pasadena, CA — An expansive exhibition of paintings by Eduardo Carrillo (1937–1997), a painter, teacher, and social activist known for advancing the recognition and appreciation of Chicano art and culture in California, is on view at the Pasadena Museum of California Art from January 21–June 3, 2018. Carrillo's large-scale oil paintings have been described alternatively as mystical, realistic, surreal, and visionary, while his intimate watercolors reflect his daily life through self-portraits, still lifes, and images of people and places he held dear. *Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo* highlights the artist's creative efforts and his social importance, reflecting on his relationship to his native California as well as to his Mexican heritage, his early religious upbringing, and European tradition of art.

Born in Santa Monica, California, Eduardo Carrillo grew up in Los Angeles. In 1960, he studied for a year at the Circulo de Bellas Artes in Madrid, where he also assisted with the restoration of a church altar. As he immersed

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himself in studies of the paintings of Hieronymus Bosch, Giorgio de Chirico, El Greco, Diego Velázquez, and other European artists at the Museo del Prado, Carrillo found life-long inspiration that informed his own style and sense of aesthetics.

After returning to the United States and earning a BFA (1962) and MFA (1964) from the University of California, Los Angeles, Carrillo taught at the University of California, San Diego's extension program. He then moved to his paternal ancestral home in Baja, where he and his first wife founded El Centro Regional de Arte in La Paz to help revive the area's local art traditions. He returned to the United States in 1969 and joined the Chicano civil rights movement El Movimiento, advancing to the forefront of the cause. During this time, Carrillo collaborated with three other artists to complete the nine-paneled mural *Chicano History* (1970) for the Chicano Studies Center at University of California, Los Angeles—the first Chicano history mural to be painted at a university in the United States. After the violent events of the Chicano Moratorium of August 1970 in Los Angeles, Carrillo moved to Northern California to accept a teaching position at California State University, Sacramento and was involved briefly in the Royal Chicano Air Force, an artists' collective.

In the early 1980s, working with Philip Brookman and Tomás Ybarra Frausto, he organized and directed the multi-year, statewide initiative *Califas: Chicano Art and Culture in California*. This groundbreaking conference included lectures, exhibitions, oral histories, videos, workshops, and performances. *Califas* continues to inform and influence the way Chicano art and culture are considered and presented, just as Carrillo's art sustains connection and continues to inspire.

"As seen in his artwork, teaching, and social activism, Carrillo never walked away from efforts to eliminate the racism that spurred the Civil Rights Movement," says guest curator Susan Leask. "He was an inspirational leader and visionary with an ability to bring people together in collaborative and efficacious ways, as he addressed racism and injustice throughout his career. He was very passionate about creating programs and platforms that promoted greater awareness of Latin American culture, aesthetics, and social concerns, and that passion can be seen in his art."

Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo features more than 60 paintings and watercolors spanning nearly four decades of the artist's production, from the late 1950s through the late 1990s. As it highlights the artist's creative efforts and social importance, it features work created for three distinct realms: the public, the private, and the museum. Viewers can see evidence of Carrillo's appreciation for Renaissance and Baroque art, pre-conquest sculpture, and the artisans and culture of Baja California, Mexico. A bilingual video by Pedro Pablo Celedón, *Eduardo Carrillo: A Life of Engagement*, will be screened at the Museum during the run of the exhibition.

On view in the Main Gallery, *Testament of the Spirit: Paintings by Eduardo Carrillo* is organized by Crocker Art Museum and curated by Guest Curator Susan Leask. Following its premiere at the Pasadena Museum of California Art from January 21–June 3, 2018, it will be on view at the Crocker Art Museum June 24–October 7, 2018, the Triton Museum of Art, Santa Clara October 27, 2018–January 27, 2019, and the American University Museum April 6–June 1, 2019. This exhibition is accompanied by a full-color, bilingual catalogue with contributions by exhibition guest curator Susan Leask as well as Philip Brookman, Gilberto Cárdenas, Maureen Davidson, Michael Duncan, Timothy Drescher, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Tere Romo, and Christina Waters.

The exhibition is supported by the PMCA Board of Directors and PMCA Ambassador Circle.



Left to Right: Eduardo Carrillo, *Down the Lane (Surfing at the Mouth of the Jordan)*, 1991-92, Oil on canvas, 71 1/2 x 59 1/2 inches. The Jane and John Fitz Gibbon Family Trust; Eduardo Carrillo, *Ed in the Garden*, early 1990s. Watercolor on paper, 19 x 24 inches. Private collection

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.

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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 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.