



PASADENA MUSEUM
of CALIFORNIA ART

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PRESS RELEASE

Brody Albert: *Strata*

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Los Angeles Artist Brody Albert presents three sculptures that address accident, fracture, and human strain on our material worlds.



Brody Albert, *Wasp Nest (Mr. Horsepower)*, 2016. Xerox paper, steel. 66 x 24 x 11 inches. Image courtesy of Jeff McLane

Pasadena, CA — the Pasadena Museum of California Art is pleased to present three works by the artist Brody Albert. In the words of the artist, these sculptures incite the viewer to examine “the marks communities leave on their surroundings.” To Albert, our environments are not fixed, but vary based on human mishaps, chance, and purposeful intervention into marginalized spaces.

Albert's sculpture *Orosi* was gleaned from the fire escape of the now defunct Freemason Temple in Orosi, California. The damage done to the metal by over a decade of wear and tear is reimagined here by the artist as purposeful indentations that crushed the ladder into new configurations. This palimpsestic work now finds its most current home on the PMCA gallery wall.

These gestures of the urban rhythm continue with *110 at I-5*, a life-size re-creation of the underpass of the California 110 freeway where it merges with Interstate 5. Pedestrians rub up against the wall of this underpass, the walls of which are covered in the sediment and residue from passing cars. Their bodies remove the build up in what Albert calls a "communally created abstract drawing." *110 at I-5* at PMCA is made using muralists' techniques: chalk, a pounce-bag, and a stencil. Albert's re-creation is not a simple replication, however. Albert's drawing is a negative of the original: what was initially removed, brushed aside, will be replaced on the gallery walls.

Wasp Nest (Mr. Horsepower) completes the triad of Albert's investigations into de-and-re-contextualized urban material. Certain species of wasps make nests through a process similar to paper pulping: they macerate debris and then regurgitate it into pliable and tacky material. The resultant pulp is then laid in thin layers, each wasp participating to construct one sheet on top of the other, forming a sort of collaboratively built strata around the sleeping wasp queen.

Albert's *Wasp Nest* translates this natural process and siphons it through a machine: pieces of standard Xerox paper are first cut into thousands of separate pieces and then glued back together. Like the wasps, the machine works non stop, running on a rigorous marathon for three weeks to complete the necessary form.

Albert's three works on view at the Pasadena Museum of California Art are reused and reimagined urban banalities, altered but still bearing traces of their origins in the ignored spaces of a municipality.

Brody Albert is a Los Angeles-based artist working in sculpture and installation. His work addresses the objects that shape, and are shaped by, social interaction. In the last few years he has exhibited at CES Gallery, Arturo Bandini, WAAP, Garden LA, VACANCY and UCLA's New Wight Gallery and The Contemporary Art Center, Irvine. Forthcoming solo exhibitions include Access Gallery, Vancouver, Roger's Office, Los Angeles. He holds an MFA from University of California, Irvine and a BFA from Art Center College of Design

Related Programs

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

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, 12:00–9:00pm; 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 (5:00–9:00pm). 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 Education & Engagement Coordinator, Leah Clancy, at 626.568.3665 x13 or email lclancy@pmcaonline.org.

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

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