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Andy Warhol, *Brillo Boxes*. Full credit below.

Pacific Asia Museum Announces a New Exhibition Exploring the Birth of the L.A. Art Scene and Contemporary Art

Pacific Asia Museum announces a new exhibition, *46 N. Los Robles: A History of the Pasadena Art Museum*, on view beginning November 18, 2011 through April 8, 2012. This exhibition explores the history of the Pasadena Art Museum during a time when America's cultural life was changing dramatically. During this period, the Pasadena Art Museum pioneered groundbreaking exhibitions of modern and contemporary art, much of which has not been seen in Southern California since. Artists featured in this exhibition include Paul Klee, Marcel Duchamp, Joseph Cornell, Larry Bell, Ed Moses, Claes Oldenburg, Kurt Schwitters, Andy Warhol, Richard Diebenkorn and Ed Ruscha among others.

46 N. Los Robles: A History of the Pasadena Art

Museum is guest curated by Jay Belloli, who served as Director of Armory Arts Programs at the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena from 1990 to 2010. This exhibition is part of *Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945 – 1980*, an unprecedented collaboration bringing together more than sixty cultural institutions from across Southern California to tell the story of the birth of the L.A. art scene.

Pacific Asia Museum's exhibition will present more than 40 important modern and contemporary works shown at the Pasadena Art Museum including paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, and documentation of performances. It will also feature audio and video interviews in which artists, museum directors, curators and board members look back at this extraordinary institution and time. *46 N. Los Robles: A History of the Pasadena Art Museum* illuminates the vibrancy of the Pasadena Art Museum, and reinforces that this organization was a leading international institution of contemporary art that contributed significantly to the birth of the L.A. art scene.

The Location: 46 N. Los Robles

46 N. Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena, California is the location where pioneering collector and entrepreneur Grace Nicholson (1877-1948) built the Treasure House of Oriental and Western Art in 1924. This site served as her residence, galleries, and emporium and played an important role in introducing Pasadena and Southern California to Asian art. In 1943, Grace Nicholson bequeathed her home to the City of Pasadena with the stipulation that it remain a cultural center. From that

time until 1969, 46 N. Los Robles Avenue was the location of the Pasadena Art Museum, which became one of the country's leading venues for the exhibition of modern and contemporary art. In 1971, the building became the location of Pacific Asia Museum, which thrives to this day.

Pacific Asia Museum considers its historic building as the first object in its collection. *46 N. Los Robles* is an opportunity to delve into the past of this unique building and celebrate its leadership in the art world. In this 40th Anniversary year, Pacific Asia Museum is proud to share the story of its past through this Pacific Standard Time collaboration.

The Organization: Pasadena Art Museum

In 1942, Pasadena Museum Association merged with the Pasadena Art Institute (founded in the late 1920s) and relocated to 46 North Los Robles Avenue in Pasadena, California and was subsequently renamed Pasadena Art Museum. The Pasadena Art Museum's role as a proponent of modern art began with the acceptance of Galka Scheyer's extraordinary Blue Four Collection in 1953, which included almost 500 important works by Lyonel Feininger, Alexei Jawlensky, Paul Klee, and Wassily Kandinsky as well as her archive of correspondence with them.

During the directorship of Joseph Fulton (1953 – 1957), the Museum reorganized to focus on acquiring and exhibiting modern and contemporary art, primarily works created after 1945. Important shows of noted Southern California artists such as Helen Lundeborg, John McLaughlin, Ynez Johnston, and Sam Francis soon followed. The legendary California Design exhibitions, curated by Eudora Moore, were initiated as well.

Under the directorship of Thomas Leavitt, exhibitions reflected more recent developments in contemporary art including single-artist shows of Richard Diebenkorn, Robert Irwin, and John Mason, among others. During Leavitt's tenure, Ferus Gallery co-owner and renowned curator Walter Hopps began to organize exhibitions for the Museum, starting with a 1961 show of Edward Kienholz sculpture. Walter Hopps also organized the first retrospective of the work of Marcel Duchamp (with Duchamp attending) in 1963 that put the Pasadena Art Museum on the international cultural map.

Until the Pasadena Art Museum moved to its new building in late 1969, 46 N. Los Robles was the site of some of the most important contemporary exhibitions of the time. Notable exhibitions include *New Painting of Common Objects* featuring early works by Andy Warhol among others and *New American Sculpture*. The list of significant one-person and group shows is extensive, featuring Jasper Johns, Larry Rivers, Frank Stella, Joseph Cornell, and Roy Lichtenstein. New directors and curators joined the staff, including James Demetron, John Coplans, Barbara Haskell and Fred Parker, one of the first photography curators at any American museum. This was also the era that saw the rise of the Pasadena Art Museum's outstanding community programs and supporting organizations, including the Art Workshops, the Art Alliance, and the Fellows. Upon moving to its new building on Colorado Boulevard in 1969, the Pasadena Art Museum continued to mount innovative exhibitions of contemporary. In 1974, Norton Simon assumed management of the museum, renaming it the Norton Simon Museum of Art and changing the focus of its exhibitions.

46 N. Los Robles: A History of the Pasadena Art Museum is funded in part by the Pasadena Art Alliance and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

About Pacific Standard Time: Art in L.A. 1945 - 1980

Pacific Standard Time is a collaboration of more than sixty cultural institutions across Southern California, coming together for six months beginning in October 2011 to tell the story of the birth of the Los Angeles art scene and how it became a major new force in the art world. Each institution will make its own contribution to this grand-scale story of artistic innovation and social change, told through a multitude of simultaneous exhibitions and programs.

Pacific Standard Time is an initiative of the Getty with presenting sponsor Bank of America.

About Pacific Asia Museum

Pacific Asia Museum is one of only four institutions in the United States dedicated exclusively to the arts and culture of Asia and the Pacific Islands. The museum's mission is to further intercultural understanding through the arts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Since 1971, Pacific Asia Museum has served a broad audience of students, families, adults, and scholars through its education and outreach programs.

Pacific Asia Museum is located at 46 North Los Robles Avenue, Pasadena, California 91101. The museum is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 am to 6 pm. Admission is \$9 general, \$7 students/seniors, and free for museum members and children under 12. Admission is free every 4th Friday of the month.

For more information visit www.pacificasiamuseum.org or call (626) 449-2742.

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Top image:

Andy Warhol

Brillo Boxes

1969 version of 1964 original

Acrylic silkscreen on wood

Norton Simon Museum, Gift of the Artist

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