

Visions & Voices: Pasadena Museum Tour

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Event

This brief guide is to complement the Pasadena Museum Tour scheduled for Saturday, September 28th 2013.

This trip is for current USC students only. You must use the provided transportation to participate.

Space is limited and advance registration is required. RSVP at [this link](#) beginning Tuesday, September 3, at 9 a.m.

Check-in for the event will begin at 8:45 a.m. on campus. Buses will depart at 9:15 a.m. and return to campus at 5 p.m. Lunch will be provided during the trip.

For more information please visit www.usc.edu/visionsandvoices.

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Background

About the Museums:

The Norton Simon Museum is known around the world as one of the most remarkable private art collections ever assembled. Over a 30-year period, twentieth-century industrialist Norton Simon (1907–1993) amassed an astonishing collection of European art from the Renaissance to the twentieth century and a stellar collection of South and Southeast Asian art spanning 2,000 years. Approximately 1,000 works from the permanent collection of 12,000 objects are on view in the Norton Simon Museum's galleries and sculpture garden throughout the year. ([Official website](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Tumblr](#))

We have an additional Research Guide just for the [Norton Simon Museum](#).



Photo by [Robert Landau](#)

The Pasadena Museum of California Art (PMCA) is dedicated to the exhibition of California art, architecture and design from 1850 to the present. Informed by the state's rich mixture of cultures and inspired by its impressive geography, California art has long been defined by a spirit of freedom and experimentation. PMCA exhibitions and educational programs explore the cultural dynamics and influences unique to California that have shaped and defined art in all media. ([Official website](#), [Facebook](#))

Established in 1971, the Pacific Asia Museum is one of a few U.S. institutions dedicated 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. The museum's historic building has served as a center for art, culture and learning in Pasadena since its construction in 1924 by pioneering collector and entrepreneur Grace Nicholson (1877–1948) as her residence, galleries and treasure house/emporium. The collection has grown to more than 15,000 objects, spanning more than 4,000 years and the region extending from Persia to the Pacific Islands. In its brief history, the museum has organized and presented a number of groundbreaking exhibitions, including the first North American exhibitions of contemporary Chinese art after the revolution and the first exhibition of Aboriginal art in the United States

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Locate books, articles or guides

The City of Pasadena is noted for its arts communities (notably, the USC Roski School of Fine Arts started offering its first courses ca. 1895 in an arts studio in Pasadena), and boasts some of the finest art museums in Southern California.

The USC Libraries hold many art exhibition catalogs from Pasadena museums, as well as books that examine and analyze the development of contemporary artistic practices in Southern California. To locate these materials, search **HOMER**, the USC Libraries catalog, by using such key terms as "Pasadena exhibitions" or "modernism art California," or by using names of specific artists.

The [Historic Los Angeles Times online](#) provides news articles on the various museums, including those published when the museum buildings were designed and built.

The [Art Full Text database](#) features full text magazine and journal reviews of art exhibitions and discussions of artists' works.

If you take the Gold Line to Pasadena, you will notice that all stations have a public art component. For more information on the history of public art on the Gold Line, check the USC Libraries archive, [Going for the Gold](#).

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Museum Series

The Getty Villa

The Getty Villa, the original site of the J. Paul Getty Museum, is a museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. The design is based on the Villa dei Papiri, a 1st century Roman estate in Herculaneum, Italy, which was partially excavated in the 18th century. It is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to ancient art. It underwent a major renovation project and reopened in 2006.

MOCA

Founded in 1979, the Museum of Contemporary Art is devoted to, as the name implies, post-World War II art. In 1984, the museum purchased the Panza Collection (from the Count and Countess Giuseppe Panza di Biumo), which encompassed major works of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art. The museum's collection now numbers over 5,000 works and is steadily growing. Today the museum is housed in three facilities: MOCA Grand Avenue, The Geffen Contemporary, and the Pacific Design Center.

LACMA

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) is the largest art museum in the western United States, and contains over 100,000 objects dating from ancient times to the present. The museum's collections encompass the geographic world and virtually the entire history of art. Among the museum's special strengths are its holdings of Asian art, housed in part in the Bruce Goff-designed Pavilion for Japanese Art; Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists including Diego Rivera, Frida Kahlo, and José Clemente Orozco; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world.

The Bowers Museum

Santa Ana's Bowers Museum holds in its collection more than 130,000 works of art, with strengths including Native American art and Asian art. Students will receive guided tours of select current exhibitions, including Ancient Arts of China and The Gold of Troy. Students will also attend a discussion on the art and architecture of the Acropolis in ancient Greece.

The Norton Simon Museum

The Norton Simon Museum is located on the corner of Orange Grove and Colorado Boulevards in Pasadena--the corner where the Rose Parade turns. Named for industrialist **Norton Simon**, it is home to one of the most remarkable and important collections assembled by a 20th century private collector.

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