



USC students will go museum-hopping at some of the greatest secrets of Southern California's impressive art scene—the Norton Simon Museum, the Pasadena Museum of California Art and the Pacific Asia Museum.

JOHN BONHAM and **RUTH WALLACH** of the USC Libraries have selected the following resources to help you learn more about the museums. Visit the online version of this guide at libguides.usc.edu/pasadena_museum_tour for even more resources.

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.

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.

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.

Recommended Databases and Other Resources

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 at www.usc.edu/homer.

The Historical *Los Angeles Times* database 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. Locate both of these databases through the USC Libraries homepage at www.usc.edu/libraries.

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 LibGuide, *Going for the Gold*, at libguides.usc.edu/gold_line.