September/October 2016

- New Jonathan and Karin Fielding Wing of the American art galleries opens Oct. 22
- Chinese woodblock prints go on view in a major international loan exhibition
- Harvest Moon Celebration will be held Sept. 27
**Calendar** • SEPTEMBER | OCTOBER • 2016

**General Information**

**Telephone:** 626-405-2100  
**Website:** huntington.org

**Admission:** Members: Free. Non-Members  
**Adult rates:** Weekdays $23. Weekends $25. (See website for discounted senior, group, and children’s rates.) Admission is free to all visitors on the first Thursday of each month with advance tickets.

**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri.: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Sat. and Sun.: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. Monday holidays: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

**Summer Hours:** (June–August)  
10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. daily, excluding Tuesdays. Closed Tuesdays and major holidays.

**Dining:** The Café serves light meals and refreshments. Tea is served in the Rose Garden Tea Room. For tea reservations, call 626-683-8131. Enjoy Chinese cuisine in the Garden of Flowing Fragrance and specialty coffees and gelato in the Coffee Shop.

**Huntington Store:** Open 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday through Monday, the store carries a variety of books, prints, note cards, jewelry, home decor, toys, and gift items related to The Huntington’s collections. Purchases help finance the institution. Store information: 626-405-2142.

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**Summer Hours:**  
4:30 p.m. Sat. and Sun.: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m. with advance tickets. (See website for discounted senior, group, and children’s rates.) Admission is free to all (See website for discounted senior, group, and adult rates.) Weekdays $23. Weekends $25. (See page on page 1.)

**Back cover:** Detail from Portrait of Albert G. Gilman of New Hampshire, 1831, by A. Ellis. Oil on basswood panel. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection. (See page 2.)

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**Exhibitions**

**Grand Opening: The Jonathan and Karin Fielding Wing**  
Oct. 22 | Scott Galleries

“Gardens, Art, and Commerce in Chinese Woodblock Prints”  
Opens Sept. 17 | Boone Gallery

“Van Gogh & Friends: Masterpieces of Impressionism and Post-Impressionism from the Hammer Museum”  
Through Jan. 2, 2017 | Huntington Art Gallery

“Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Bilingual Photography and the Architecture of Greene & Greene”  
Through Oct. 3 | Scott Galleries, Chandler Wing

“Blast! Modernist Painting in Britain, 1900-1940”  
Through Nov. 12 | Huntington Art Gallery

“Lari Pittman: Mood Books”  
Opens Sept. 5 | Scott Galleries

“Real American Places: Edward Weston and Leaves of Grass”  
Opens Oct. 22 | Scott Galleries, Chandler Wing

“Geographies of Wonder: Evolution of the National Parks Idea, 1915–2016”  
Opens Oct. 22 | Library West Hall

“FORLegium: Folded Transformations from the Natural World by Robert J. Lang”  
Opens Oct. 22 | Brady Botanical Center (weekends only)

“Orbit Pavilion”  
Opens Oct. 29 | Celebration Lawn

**Art from a Golden Age**

**Chinese woodblock prints go on view in an international loan exhibition**

It was a golden age for Chinese woodblock printing. During the late Ming (1368–1644) and early Qing (1644–1912) dynasties, an increase in prosperity and literacy in China led to a growing demand for printed words and pictures. Highly skilled designers, carvers, and printers were hired to produce sophisticated works whose delicate detail, painterly textures, and subtle hues could almost be mistaken for watercolor.

This fall, The Huntington will present a major international loan exhibition exploring the art, craft, and cultural significance of Chinese woodblock prints made during this era. “Gardens, Art, and Commerce in Chinese Woodblock Prints” brings together 48 of the finest examples gathered from the National Library of China, Beijing; the Nanjing Library; the Shanghai Museum; and 14 institutional and private collections in the United States. The exhibition opens Sept. 17 and continues through Jan. 9, 2017, in the MaryLou and George Boone Gallery.

Among the highlights is The Huntington’s rare edition of the Ten Bamboo Studio Manual of Calligraphy and Painting (ca. 1633–1703). The rare volume was acquired by The Huntington in 2014 and is being exhibited for the first time.

The founding curator of The Huntington’s Chinese Garden, June Li, is co-curator of the exhibition and co-author of the catalog, along with Chinese woodblock print specialist Suzanne Wright, associate professor of art history at the University of Tennessee.

“In the realm of Chinese art, pictorial woodblock prints are not as familiar as paintings, calligraphy, or ceramics,” said Li. “The subject of woodblock prints usually brings to mind Buddhist icons, Daoist deities, or folk images, rather than refined and artistic works. But, over the past few years, scholars studying the historical and artistic aspects of these prints have re-introduced a trove of beautiful works that are highly accomplished.”

One such work is an impressive hand scroll, nine and a half feet in length, that was commissioned by the Song emperor Taizong in the 10th century. The earliest piece in the exhibition, it shows the lofty achievements of woodblock printers by that period, with enormous clarity of line and painstaking attention to the details of mountains, streams, trees, and tiny figures.

Wealthy merchants and scholars collected these books as a way to display their taste in drama, poetry, literature, and art. Gardens were central to a cultured life, appearing frequently in woodblock prints as subject or setting. Chinese pictorial works were also highly sought after in Japan, where their artistic and technical virtuosity had a profound influence on Japanese woodblock printing.

“Gardens, Art, and Commerce in Chinese Woodblock Prints” is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog, available for $49.95 in the Huntington Store or online at thehuntingtonstore.org.

Support for the exhibition was provided by the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation, the Henry Lace Foundation, and The Glady’s Krieble Delmas Foundation. Additional funding was provided by Richard A. Simms, The Constance Hotel, and The Ahmanson Foundation Exhibition and Education Endowment.

**Scott Galleries**

Through Oct. 22

“Blast! Modernist Painting in Britain, 1900-1940”  
Through Nov. 12 | Huntington Art Gallery

“Lari Pittman: Mood Books”  
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**On the cover:** Scenes from Story of the Western Chamber: The Complete Version, Qing dynasty, 1747. Hand-colored Chinese woodblock print mounted as hanging scroll. Harvard Art Museums/Arthur M. Sackler Museum. (See story on page 1.)

**Back cover:** Detail from Portrait of Albert G. Gilman of New Hampshire, 1831, by A. Ellis. Oil on basswood panel. Jonathan and Karin Fielding Collection. (See page 2.)

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**Further reading:**  
For more information on this exhibition, visit thehuntington.org.

**Additional resources:**  
For more information on Chinese woodblock prints, visit thehuntington.org/ChineseWoodblockPrints.

**Support for the exhibition:**  
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**Endowment:**  
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Fielding Wing Opens

Expansion of the Scott Galleries adds eight new rooms for the display of American art

A beautiful new addition to the Scott Galleries makes its debut on Oct. 22 with the opening of the Jonathan and Karin Fielding Wing. Named after the lead donors for the $10.3 million building project, the Fielding Wing was designed by Frederick Fisher and Partners and includes eight new rooms for the display of art. A stately glass entrance on the south side of the building mirrors the one on the north side, drawing visitors in from the main pathways in the central gardens. This new entrance, along with a reconfiguration of some of the rooms of the existing building, improves visitor flow and makes entering the galleries more inviting and intuitive.

An inaugural exhibition will showcase more than 200 works from the Fieldings’ collection of 18th- and early 19th-century American art works, including paintings, sculpture, furniture, ceramics, metal, needlework, and other related decorative arts. Some of the objects are promised gifts to The Huntington. In its rich diversity, the Fielding Collection offers a rare opportunity to explore early American history through objects made for daily use and through images of the people who used them.

“The collection, display, and contextualization of historical American art is among our chief priorities,” said Laura Skandera Trombley, president of The Huntington. “And the educational and inspirational value of the new wing is immeasurable. It will bring to light unforgettable works made with American originality, and is sure to delight and surprise visitors of all ages. We are profoundly grateful to Jonathan and Karin Fielding for their vision and generosity.”

With this expansion of the Scott Galleries (the third since 2009), The Huntington is now home to one of the largest displays of historical American art in the Western United States.

Preview events are scheduled for Members (see page 4) and the Society of Fellows (details on page 12).

Van Gogh & Friends

Fifteen masterpieces from the Hammer Museum pay a visit to The Huntington

H enry Huntington and Armand Hammer never met each other, but the two businessmen had at least one thing in common: they both established great art collections that form the core of major museums in Los Angeles. In an exciting “meet-up” of sorts, 15 important works from the Hammer Museum have taken up temporary residence at The Huntington, offering visitors the unprecedented opportunity to enjoy masterpieces from both collections in one place.


The exhibition contains three haunting works by Vincent van Gogh, including his great Hospital at Saint-Rémy (1889) and The Sower (ca.1888), as well as Claude Monet’s View of Bordighera (1884), Alfred Sisley’s Timber Yard at Saint-Mammès (1880), and Camille Pissarro’s Boulevard Montmartre, Mardi Gras (1897). Also included are such startling images of modern life and the fin de siècle avant-garde as Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec’s Study for “In the Salon on the Rue des Moulins” (1894), Paul Cézanne’s Boy Resting (ca. 1887), and Paul Gauguin’s Bonjour Monsieur Gauguin (1889). Gustave Moreau’s theatrical Salome Dancing before Herod (1876), a seminal work of French Symbolist painting, joins its compatriots.

In addition to these masterworks of French painting, American-British artist John Singer Sargent’s striking portrait of Dr. Pozzi at Home (1881)—painted in Paris—is installed in the ground-floor Thornton Portrait Gallery, where Thomas Gainsborough’s Blue Boy hangs. Sargent’s painting represents the culmination of British grand manner portraiture as exemplified in the gallery by such 18th-century masters as Gainsborough, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and George Romney.

Modernists Works on View

Three recently acquired works of 20th-century British art are the centerpiece of a small focus exhibition titled “Blast! Modernist Painting in Britain, 1900–1940,” on view through Nov. 14, in the Huntington Art Gallery (second floor, west wing). Mark Gertler’s portrait of fellow artist Dora Carrington (1912), Duncan Grant’s Cubist-inspired Vase of Flowers with Lemon (1913), and David Bomberg’s powerful landscape The Slopes of Navar, Picos de Europa (1935) form the core of the installation. These works are supplemented by nine significant loans from a private collection. A related display of Modernist drawings is also on view in the Huntington Art Gallery’s Works on Paper Room.
For Our Members

Public Programs

33rd Succulent Plants Symposium Sept. 3 (Saturday) 9 a.m.–5 p.m. Succulent experts from the United States and Mexico will discuss topics including conservation, cypresprevement, and the evolutionary adaptations of cactus anatomy. Pre-registration is required. SRS. (Dinner: $42. Registration: 626-405-3504)

Music in the Chinese Garden Wednesdays 1–3 p.m. Enjoy traditional Chinese music every Wednesday afternoon in the Garden of Flowering Fragrance. General admission. (Canned in the event of rain)

Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale Butterflies and Native Plants Sept. 8 (Thursday) 2:30 p.m. Attract butterflies to your garden with beautiful native plants. Tim Becker, director of horticulture at the Theodore Payne Foundation, will share some of the butterfly's favorites, including buckwheat (Eriogonum) and milkweed (Asclepias). A plant sale follows the talk. Free; no reservations required.

Botany Bay Series Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists Sept. 22 & Oct. 27 (Thursday) 4:30–5:30 p.m. Join Jim Faison, the Tellus/Jorgen Jensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, for an exploration of the wonders of the plant world, including lab time with microscopes and plant specimens. Attend a single session or participate every month. Free; no reservations required. Botanical Auditorium, Brody Botanical Center

Second Thursday Garden Talk & Sale Backyard Orchards Sept. 29 (Thursday) 2:30 p.m. Gardeners, experts in the literature, history, geography, and regional religious philosophies have played in its history. Free; no reservations required.

Ranch Open House Sept. 24 & Oct. 22 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Self-tour The Huntington's urban agriculture site and take home some fresh ideas for sustainable gardening. General admission. (Canned in the event of rain.) Ranch Garden

Conference Ben Jonson, 1616–2016 Sept. 16–17 (Friday–Saturday) 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. In honor of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the landmark folio The Works of Ben Jonson, experts in the field will explore the English dramatic art's impact in his own time and his reputation down to the present. $25. Registration: researchconference@huntington.org or 626-405-3432. Rothenberg Hall

Distinguished Fellow Lecture Physics and Belles Lettres: The Arts and the Sciences in the Industrial Revolution Sept. 21 (Tuesday) 7:30 p.m. Joan Mee, professor of 18th-century studies at the University of York and the 8. Stanton Avery Distinguished Fellow at The Huntington, discusses the network of literary and philosophical societies that sprang up in response to the transformative experience of the industrial revolution in the north of England between 1780 and 1830. Free; no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall

Japanese Teahouse Tours Sept. 12 & Oct. (Mondays) 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Learn the traditions behind the Japanese Garden's ceremonial teahouse. Informal tours are offered at 20-minute intervals on the second Monday of every month. No reservations required. General admission.

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Film Screening Jack London: American Original Sept. 27 (Thursday) 7:30 p.m. The Huntington will present a screening of the documentary Jack London: American Original, featuring a treasure trove of rare archival photographs and film footage. A Q&A with director Ben Goldstraw follows the film. Members & 55+: Reservations. Rothenberg Hall

Lecture and Symposium Natural Discourse: Fire! Sept. 30 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.–Lecture Oct. 1 (Saturday) 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Symposium Every millenium, mankind has learned to use fire in sophisticated ways, from metallurgy to glassmaking, from the use of fossil fuels to chpaperal ecological. In this daylong symposium presented by Natural Discourse, historians, ecologists, artists, and pyrotechnicians explore the cultural and environmental uses of fire. Friday lecture only: $25. Both days: $140 includes lunch on Saturday. Registration and program details: huntington.org/calendar. Rothenberg Hall

Huntington Ball Sept. 10 (Saturday) 7 p.m.–midnight Enjoy dinner and dancing under the stars at The Huntington's annual fall gala, chaired this year by Lynda and Blaine Fetzer. A gourmet three-course dinner will be catered by The Kitchen for Exploring Foods. Proceeds from the Ball will support research and educational programming at The Huntington. Tickets: $100. (Society of Fellows: $500.) For details and sponsorship information, please call 626-405-2264.

Botany Bay Series Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists Sept. 22 & Oct. 27 (Thursday) 4:30–5:30 p.m. Join Jim Faison, the Tellus/Jorgen Jensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, for an exploration of the wonders of the plant world, including lab time with microscopes and plant specimens. Attend a single session or participate every month. Free; no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall

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S E P T – O C T . 2 0 1 6 E V E N T S  ( C o n t i n u e d )

Distinguished Fellow Lecture
The New Battlefield History of the American Revolution
Oct. 24 (Monday) 7:30 p.m.
Distinguished Fellow Lecture Program explores the study of nearly every facet of America’s founding era, they left one topic—the battlefield—to traditional historians. Until now. Woody Holton, professor of American history at the University of South Carolina and the Los Angeles Times Distinguished Fellow, offers a preview of research from his forthcoming book. Fee: no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall

East Asian Garden Lecture Series
Painters, Carvers, and Style in Chinese Woodblock Printed Images
Oct. 25 (Thursday) 7:30 p.m.
Suzanne Wright, associate professor of art history at the University of Tennessee, discusses the relationships between Chinese painters and woodblock carvers who worked together to produce prints of exquisite beauty in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Free; no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall

Botany Bay Series
Plant Science for Gardeners and Citizen Scientists
Oct. 27 (Thursday) 6:30–9 p.m. (See Sept. 22)

Xenogenesis Suite: A Musical Tribute to Octavia E. Butler
Oct. 27 (Thursday) 7:30–9 p.m.
Composer and flutist Nicole Mitchell and the Black Earth Ensemble will perform works from her Xenogenesis Suite, a musical journey inspired by the award-winning science fiction writer. Art-Futurist Octavia E. Butler, whose archive is housed at The Huntington. This event is presented in collaboration with Clockshop and the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West. Members: $10. Non-Members: $15. Tickets: huntington.org/calendar. Rothenberg Hall

Fall Plant Sale
Oct. 28–30
Friday: noon to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday–Sunday: 10:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Fall is prime time for planting California natives, and home gardeners will find a wide selection of plants at our annual fall sale. Look for beautiful varieties of Selvia and Ceanothus, dry-climate favorites such as buckwheat and toyon, and many others. Expand your options with water-wise Australian plants such as Callistemon, Grevillea, and Westringia. And don’t miss the great selection of herbs, bulbs, grasses, shrubs, cacti, succulents, and more. General admission. Plant Sale Nursery

Chinese Tea Workshop
Sept. 16 (Saturday) 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Artistic concerns are embodied in the tea ceremony, the most intimate of all Chinese rituals, and nowhere more than in the tea garden. This workshop will give participants a glimpse of the tea ceremony in the context of Chinese culture, history, and art. Fee: $65. Members: $55. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.

Watercolor at The Huntington
Sept. 10–Oct. 8 (Saturday) 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Chinese Orchid Show and Sale
Oct. 21–23
Celebrate the amazing diversity of orchids—a mind-blowing complexity. Free; no reservations required. Rothenberg Hall

Botanical Illustration in Watercolor: Orchids
Oct. 22–23 (Saturday–Sunday) 9:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Wines of Australia and New Zealand
Oct. 26 (Wednesday) 5–7:30 p.m.

A Midsummer Night’s Dream
Sept. 24 (Saturday) 9 a.m.–noon

Fall Plant Sale
Oct. 4 (Sunday) 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Now is the time to plant California natives for winter bloom. Members: $25. Non-Members: $35. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.

Shakespeare in Quarto, Shakespeare in Love
Oct. 6–9 (Saturday–Tuesday) 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.

Wines of Australia and New Zealand
Oct. 25 (Tuesday) 7:30 p.m.

Cooking with Pumpkins
Oct. 15 (Saturday) 9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Children’s Workshop
Art to Dye For
Oct. 29 (Saturday) 10 a.m.–noon
Young artists can explore the rich history of textiles in this workshop led by instructor Ali Shariati. Registration: huntington.org/calendar.

Children’s Workshop
Halloween Concoctions
Oct. 29 (Saturday) 1–3:30 p.m.
 registration: huntington.org/calendar.

 QUESTIONS? 626-405-2100
NASA’s Orbit Pavilion Touches Down

The exhibition launches a new series of creative collaborations

Satellites that study the Earth are passing through space continuously, collecting data on everything from hurricanes to the effects of drought. What if you could make contact with these orbiting spacecraft, and bring them “down to Earth,” so to speak? Visitors can do exactly that when NASA’s Orbit Pavilion sound experience touches down at The Huntington this fall. The outdoor installation will be on view beginning Oct. 29 and will continue through Feb. 27, 2017.

Orbit Pavilion is the brainchild of Dan Goods and David Delgado, visual strategists at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory, who conceived an innovative “soundscape” representing the movement of the International Space Station and 19 Earth satellites. Inside a large, shell-shaped sculpture, distinctive sounds are emitted as each satellite passes overhead. Visitors walking into the structure hear a new kind of symphony as various sounds—a human voice, the crashing of a wave, a tree branch moving, a frog croaking—interpret each of the satellites’ missions. The exhibition inaugurates a new initiative at The Huntington focused on creative collaborations with other organizations. The new project, called “Five,” pairs The Huntington with five different organizations over five years, bringing in a range of contemporary artists who will respond to themes drawn from some aspect of the collections, such as the Library’s important holdings in aerospace history.

The Five initiative and the presentation of Orbit Pavilion at The Huntington are made possible by a generous gift from The Cheng Family Foundation. Additional funding for Orbit Pavilion was provided by Kim and Ginger Caldwell and the Bry and Judi Danner President’s Discretionary Fund.

Read more at huntington.org/orbit.

An Evolving Vision for our National Parks

The story was just too big for a single show. This fall, the Huntington presents the second of two consecutive exhibitions that focus on the critical role that national parks have played in American history. Both shows celebrate this year’s centennial of the National Park Service. The first exhibition, which looked at the origins of the parks, ends on Feb. 13, 2017, in the West Hall of the Library.

Through a display of nearly 100 items gathered from The Huntington’s holdings and from various private collections, “Geographies of Wonder: Evolution of the National Park Idea, 1933–2016” will highlight the expansion of the parks under President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program and the conflicting visions for these parks that took shape over the past 80 years. And it will illuminate the great paradox established by the National Park Service’s founding legislation: how to make the lands under its management available for public enjoyment while ensuring the preservation of those lands for the use of future generations.

Read more about “Geographies of Wonder” at huntington.org.

Anne Rothenberg Elected Trustee Chair

Anne Rothenberg, longtime Huntington supporter and a trustee since 2005, was elected chair of the board, effective July 1. She is the first woman to lead the five-member governing board responsible for The Huntington’s financial sustainability and overarching direction. Rothenberg succeeds Stewart R. Smith, who has served as trustee chair since 2006; he will remain on the board along with fellow trustees Andrew F. Barth, Loren Rothschild, and Geneva Thornton. A 68-member Board of Overseers supports the trustees in an advisory capacity.

The Rothenberg name is a familiar one at The Huntington, as the family has played an essential role in leading philanthropic campaigns on the institution’s behalf. Anne and her late husband, Jim, have supported a wide range of programmatic activities, including building projects, exhibitions, and art acquisitions.

“As the first woman president of The Huntington, I am absolutely thrilled that Anne has been named to this important role,” said Laura Skandera Trombley, Huntington president. “Anne has been deeply involved at The Huntington for years, active on a number of committees—including Art, Buildings and Grounds, and Advancement. I love her innate curiosity and strong support of all that we do, and I look forward to working with her in this new capacity.”

Library Director David Zeidberg to Retire

David S. Zeidberg, Avery Director of the Library, has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2017, after 20 years of transformative achievements that have included extraordinary collections growth and the construction of the Munger Research Center.

Under Zeidberg’s direction, The Huntington has expanded its literary holdings by acquiring the papers of authors Christopher Isherwood, Hilary Mantel, and Charles Bukowski. In 2006, the family of the late industrialist Bern Dibner gave The Huntington his remarkable 67,000-item collection on the history of science, technology, and medicine, along with an endowment for new staff members to oversee it. Silicon Valley pioneer Jay Last donated his extraordinary collection of color lithography and provided endowed support to catalog and care for the material.

Other important collections acquired under Zeidberg’s leadership include the Francis Bacon Library; L.A. County court records from 1850 to 1910; the Sanford and Helen Berger collection of William Morris materials; important photograph collections, including the Southern California Edison photo archive, the Ernest Marquez collection on Southern California, Maynard Parker’s archives, and Ansel Adams photographs; a plethora of Los Angeles Times-related collections, including the archives of cartoonist Paul Conrad and columnists Jack Smith and Al Martinez; extensive archives in the history of the aerospace industry in Southern California; and the Longo Collection on the history of human reproduction.

Following retirement, Zeidberg plans to continue at The Huntington as a researcher, writing in two areas: on the development of the Library collections during his tenure, and on his particular area of academic interest, the history of early printing. The search for a new Library director is currently in progress.
Edward Weston and Walt Whitman, In Conversation

A new exhibition opening this fall considers a rich dialogue between two iconic figures in American culture: the renowned photographer Edward Weston (1886–1958) and poet Walt Whitman (1819–1892).


The 25 photographs included in the exhibition illuminate an understudied chapter of Weston’s career. In 1941, the Limited Editions Book Club approached Weston to collaborate on a deluxe edition of Whitman’s Leaves of Grass. The publisher’s ambitious plan was to capture “the real American faces and the real American places” that defined Whitman’s epic work.

Weston eagerly accepted the assignment, and—on the eve of the United States’ involvement in World War II—he set out with his wife, Charis Wilson, on a cross-country trip that yielded a group of images that mark the culmination of an extraordinarily creative and prolific period in his career. While Weston believed the photographs to be some of his best, the resulting Limited Editions publication proved a failure on many fronts. As a result, the photographs from the Leaves of Grass project have been relegated to footnote status in Weston’s oeuvre.

“This is an important body of work that has been unjustly overlooked and clearly deserves its due,” said Jennifer Watts, curator of photography at The Huntington. Watts is co-curator of the exhibition, along with James Gilson, the Bradford and Christine Misher Assistant Curator of American Art.

The Whitman series forms a significant part of the 500 photographs that Weston donated to The Huntington in 1944. In 2003, The Huntington acquired Charis Wilson’s typescript diary recounting every aspect of the journey, as well as documentation detailing the contentious creative wrangling between Weston and the Limited Editions publishers. The Library’s manuscript and rare book holdings also include a number of original Whitman items, a selection of which will be on view, allowing visitors to explore the creative response of one giant of American culture in conversation with another.

Calling All Code-Breakers!

Are you fascinated by history? Now’s your chance to be a part of it. In a move to gain new insights into the U.S. Civil War, The Huntington has launched an innovative crowdsourcing project to transcribe and decipher a collection of nearly 16,000 wartime telegrams between Abraham Lincoln, his Cabinet, and officers of the Union Army. The Huntington acquired the exceptionally rare collection of telegrams in 2012. Roughly one-third of the messages were written in code.

The Decoding the Civil War project invites “citizen archivists” to help transcribe the telegrams and codebooks on the project’s crowdsourcing website. The site provides public access to digitized images of the manuscripts through the Huntington Digital Library. The project is partially funded by a two-year federal grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

Learn more about the project and its partners, and take a brief tutorial that explains the process for transcribing a telegram, at decodingthecivilwar.org.

Origami by Robert Lang


The exhibition takes its name from the Latin word florilegium, which literally translates as “a gathering of flowers.” During the horticultural Age of Discovery in the 17th and 18th centuries, the word referred to lavishly illustrated books of botanical art that depicted the wonders of the natural world. Lang revisits this tradition through an exploration of the flora and fauna of The Huntington as reimagined through the medium of intricately folded paper.

“By manipulating the fundamental element—the uncut sheet—via the fundamental action—the fold—we create line and form reminiscent of entities from the natural world while preserving the integrity of the initial sheet,” said Lang. The apparent simplicity of that statement is belied by the complexity of his creations, which include the spiny likeness of a cactus made from a single uncut sheet.

“My goal in most of my origami works is to bring about a conflict in the viewer’s mind, where the beliefs of impossibility and the knowledge of achievement are simultaneously present in equal measure.”

Lang will give a free public lecture on the art and science of origami on Sunday, Oct. 23, at 2 p.m. in Rothenberg Hall. See page 6 for details.

“florilegium” is part of a year-long initiative focusing on the Japanese art of origami, made possible by the generous support of Toshie and Frank Mosher.

James Folsom Honored

In a ceremony held on June 16, James Folsom, the Telleen/Jorgensen Director of the Botanical Gardens, received an imperial decoration from the government of Japan for his work promoting Japanese culture in the United States. Harry H. Horinouchi, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles, presented Folsom with the medal—the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette—along with an official proclamation. Folsom’s meritorious service, as cited by the consul general, included coordinating the donation of 1,300 cherry trees to public organizations during the Japan–U.S. Cherry Blossom Centennial in 2012 and spearheading the renovation of The Huntington’s historic Japanese Garden, which celebrated its own centennial the same year. Showcasing the garden as a vehicle for cultural enrichment, Folsom and his staff continue to provide numerous opportunities for visitors to experience such Japanese cultural arts as kibana flower arranging, bonsai, suiseki viewing stones, and the Japanese tea ceremony—activities that help foster a deeper mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States.

James Folsom (left) poses with Consul General Harry H. Horinouchi after being awarded the imperial Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his work promoting Japanese culture in the United States. Photo by Andrew Mitchell.
Lari Pittman’s “Mood Books”

Widely considered one of the most important painters of his generation, Los Angeles-based artist Lari Pittman (b. 1952) is known for his exuberant, colorful, and graphically complex works. Huntington visitors can see the artist at his hallucinogenic best in the exhibition “Lari Pittman: Mood Books,” on view starting Sept. 3 in the Lois and Robert F. Erburu Gallery of the Virginia Steele Scott Galleries of American Art, and continuing through Feb. 20, 2017.

Six monumental illustrated books, each measuring 27 inches tall and opening to more than four feet in width, contain 65 paintings by the artist. They draw from diverse aesthetic traditions and a variety of influences, ranging from decorative art and design to advertising and folk art. Combined with Pittman’s brilliant draftsmanship and vivid color, the images advance an astute and acerbic social commentary embedded in narratives rich with real and invented mythologies.

Each book has been given a cryptic title, such as 9 Apparitions: Times of Anxiety and Distress, and 12 Tableaux in which the Avant-Garde invented mythologies. The impact of the books is further elevated by an installation conceived by award-winning Los Angeles architect Michael Maltzan, among whose projects are the award-winning downtown apartment complex One Santa Fe and the forthcoming Sixth Street Viaduct. Grand, sculptural pedestals hold the books open so visitors can enjoy a direct, unimpeded experience. A catalog is planned in conjunction with the exhibition.

Harvest Moon Celebration

In China and other parts of Asia, celebrating the mid-autumn moon with family and friends is a centuries-old tradition. The Huntington will mark the occasion on Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., with its own Harvest Moon Celebration held in the beautiful setting of the Chinese Garden, Liu Fang Yuan???, the Garden of Flowing Fragrance. Guests will enjoy the sights, sounds, and flavors of a traditional Chinese festival. Live music will be performed lakeside under the moon-lit sky by the Beijing-based Chinese Music Orchestra. Nearly 30 Chinese and Asian-inspired restaurants will offer tastings of fine wines, beer, and Asian cuisine (all included in the ticket price). And The Huntington’s fall exhibition, “Gardens, Art, and Commerce in Chinese Woodblock Prints” will be open in the Boone Gallery.

Guests who purchase a VIP ticket can enjoy early entry to the event at 5:30 p.m. Advance tickets are required at all prices. VIP: $148. Members: $88. Non-Members: $98. Tickets: www.huntington.org/harvestmoon.

The Harvest Moon Festival is sponsored by New Century BMW

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