

## Palm Springs Art Museum offers John Baldessari Exhibition

### *John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective from the Collections of Jordan Schnitzer & His Family Foundation*

**February 26 – June 26, 2011**



February 9, 2011 (Palm Springs, CA) -- The Palm Springs Art Museum will open a new exhibition called *John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his family foundation* and will run from February 26, 2011 – June 26, 2011.

For more than 40 years, John Baldessari has been a mainstay of the Southern California art scene and a key contributor to national and international explorations of conceptual art in its many idioms, whether linguistic, performance-based, or photo and object-based. An underlying theme in his art has been the questioning of perceptual experience – how we see, interpret, and understand the world around us – and how this experience can dislocate preconceived notions and challenge conventional thinking.

His work has been aggressively multimedia, ranging from pure painting to printed and written word art, colorful collages and assemblages, recorded performances, and works that combine painting, photography, and sculpture. Baldessari's impressive achievements were recently honored by a traveling retrospective *Pure Beauty*, organized by the Tate Modern and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and also traveling to the Museu d'Art Contemporani de Barcelona and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The hundreds of prints that Baldessari has made in a variety of media with workshops and publishers in California, New York, and Europe underscore the high value that he places on printmaking as an artistic form. More than 100 prints are included in this exhibition – from early prints of 1973 to his most recent ones of 2010—as testimony to his longstanding and dedicated commitment to printmaking.

Additional mixed media works and paintings by Baldessari on loan from other collectors will be installed in the Steve Chase Wing on the museum's upper level.

#### About John Baldessari

Born in National City, California in 1931, Baldessari has been teaching art and making art since the 1950s after receiving his BA and MA from San Diego State College. He taught at the California Institute of the Arts from its founding in 1970 to 1988 and has

been visiting professor of art at the University of California, Los Angeles, since 1996. He lives in Los Angeles and is often credited with helping to make that city an internationally recognized center of contemporary art.

In 1970, Baldessari abandoned painting to work exclusively with photographs and text to make his art more accessible. He also hoped to bring photography into the mainstream of contemporary art and to promote it as a legitimate artistic tool. Baldessari's interest in stretching art world parameters to include photographs coincided in the 1970s with an interest on the part of many progressive American print workshops to introduce printmaking processes as vehicles for contemporary expression.

Baldessari looked first to Southern California print workshops that were already well known for their receptivity to artists stretching the limits of printmaking. During the 1980s, he continued to employ photographs, particularly B-movie stills, that he shaped, altered, framed, and rearranged, with and without text, to trigger new meanings.

In the mid-1990s, Baldessari began working with the Mixografia® workshop in Los Angeles to create three-dimensional prints utilizing their unique process of printing with metal molds. This interest in dimensionality carried over to recent editions from Gemini G.E.L. in which screen printed images are constructed in layers.

#### About Jordan Schnitzer

Jordan Schnitzer, resident of Portland, OR and Indian Wells, has amassed the world's largest repository of prints and multiples by John Baldessari. An initial selection of works from this collection was presented at the Legion of Honor, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco in 2009.

*John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his family foundation* is organized by the Palm Springs Art Museum and the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. Support for the exhibition and related educational and promotional programs has been made possible by a grant from the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation. Additional funding is provided by the museum's Contemporary Art Council, Gladys Rubinstein, the Faye and Herman Sarkowsky Exhibition Fund, Bonhams & Butterfields, and Thelma and Gilbert Schnitzer.

#### About Palm Springs Art Museum

Located downtown in an architecturally-significant building, the Palm Springs Art Museum features compelling exhibitions and a robust permanent collection of modern, contemporary, Native American, Western and Pre-Columbian and glass art in 28 spacious galleries and in its two outdoor sculpture gardens. The museum offers educational lectures, films and an assortment of programs and art workshops for all ages. The museum's Annenberg Theater features outstanding musical performances. The museum is open six days a week; Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. with free admission from 4 – 8 p.m. sponsored by the City of Palm Springs. Admission is free to members; \$12.50 for adults; \$10.50 for seniors 62 and over; \$5 for adult students and active-duty military with I.D. and free for youths 12 and under. For more information, call 760.322.4800 or visit [www.psmuseum.org](http://www.psmuseum.org).

**Image credit:** John Baldessari, *Six Colorful Gags (Male)*, 1991, photogravure, aquatint, and spit-bite aquatint, collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, © John Baldessari

NOTE TO MEDIA: High resolution images for this exhibition are available upon request.

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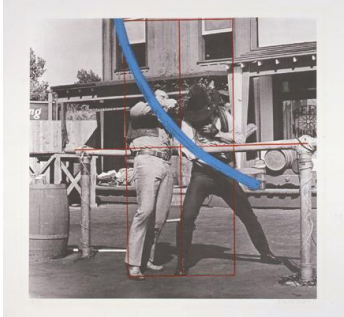

***John Baldessari: A Print Retrospective from the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and his family foundation***

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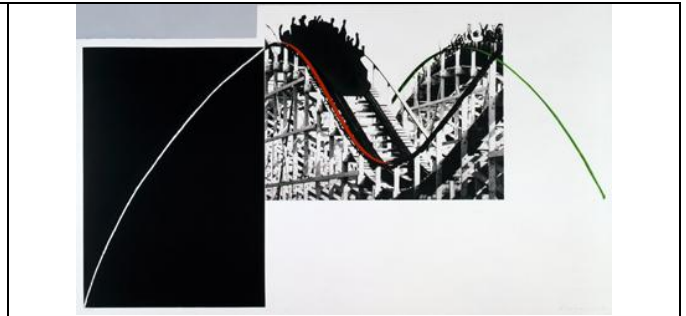
**Media Contact: Bob Bogard, 760.322.4814 / [bbogard@psmuseum.org](mailto:bbogard@psmuseum.org)**

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<p>John Baldessari, <i>Stonehenge (with Two Persons) Blue</i>, 2005, Mixografia® print on handmade paper, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari</p>	<p>John Baldessari, <i>Six Colorful Gags (Male)</i>, 1991, photogravure, aquatint, and spit-bite aquatint, collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, © John Baldessari</p>
	
<p>John Baldessari, <i>Blue Masterstroke Over Red Diagram and Two Cowboys</i>, 1989, screenprint and offset lithograph, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari</p>	<p>John Baldessari, <i>Throwing Three Balls in the Air to Get a Straight Line (Best of Thirty-Six Attempts)</i>, 1973, offset lithograph from an artist's book of the same title, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari</p>



John Baldessari. *Object (with Flaw)*, 1988, lithograph printed on paper and Plexiglas, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari



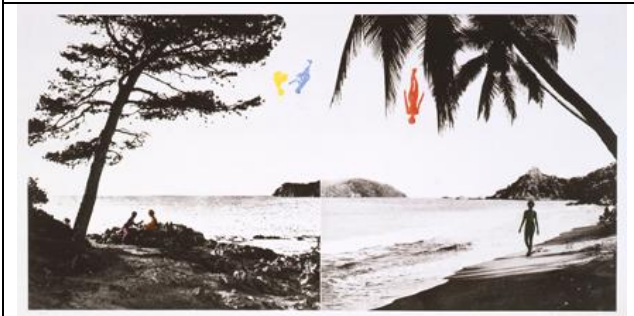
John Baldessari, *Rollercoaster*, 1989-90, soft-ground, aquatint, and photogravure on irregularly shaped paper, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *To Insert: Person and Ladder (Red) / Hose / Smoke; Flowers and Plates (Blue Hope)*, 1991, photogravure, spit-bite aquatint on irregularly shaped paper, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *Millennium Piece (with Blue Apple)*, 1999, iris print, collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *Paradise*, 1989-90, spit-bite, photogravure and aquatint, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *Juggler's Hand (with Diver)*, 1988, lithograph, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *Two Erect Figures / Two Skateboards*, 1995, screenprint, collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Family Foundation, © John Baldessari



John Baldessari, *Raised Eyebrows / Furrowed Foreheads: Two Foreheads (One Green)*, 2009, offset lithograph and screenprint, collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, © John Baldessari