



Palm Springs Art Museum

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PALM SPRINGS ART MUSEUM PRESENTS

BARBARA STAUFFACHER SOLOMON. BREAKING ALL THE RULES.

ON VIEW OCTOBER 5, 2019–JANUARY 20, 2020

Pioneering designer's work on view at Architecture and Design Center

PALM SPRINGS, CA (July 29, 2019) – Palm Springs Art Museum is pleased to present the work of renowned San Francisco-based graphic and landscape designer Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, best known for her groundbreaking 1966 supergraphics at The Sea Ranch in Northern California. The exhibition, *Barbara Stauffacher Solomon. Breaking all the Rules.*, will be shown at the museum's Architecture and Design Center from October 5, 2019—January 20, 2020.

Solomon mixed Swiss Modernism with West Coast Pop to create a fresh, new look that came to be called California Cool and is recognized as a seminal moment in the history of graphic design. In 1990, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art mounted an exhibition of Solomon's Ping Pong paintings, which are the same size as the actual tables used in the sport, together with actual ping pong tables for use by visitors. The ping pong tables were removed within a few days, leaving only the paintings. At the A+D Center, we will recreate Solomon's Ping Pong Parlor, which will be complemented by a new site-specific supergraphic designed by Solomon. Visitors will have the opportunity to watch the painting of the supergraphic before the exhibition officially opens.

In addition to the Ping Pong Parlor, the exhibition also includes a large selection of Solomon's beautiful hand drawings from the 1970s to the present. In the 1980s, Solomon investigated the idea of the green rectangle as a symbol of parks, gardens, public squares and parking lots, a theme she explored in her 1988 book, *Green Architecture and the Agrarian Garden*. For Solomon, "green architecture" is where architecture and landscape architecture overlap. A selection of process drawings from her 1990 *Good Mourning California* series will be included along with sketches and drawings for the design of the exhibition.

"Bobbie Solomon is enjoying something of a renaissance right now and it is an absolute thrill to have her create a special installation just for Palm Springs," says Louis Grachos, JoAnn McGrath Executive Director/Chief Executive Officer.

"It has been amazing to work closely with Bobbie over the past year to bring this exhibition to life and I am excited to introduce the work of this inspiring woman to a new generation of design lovers. Not only did Bobbie break the rules by blowing up her designs to an architectural scale at The Sea Ranch, she also broke the rules by encouraging museum visitors to play ping pong in the exhibition gallery. At SFMOMA, the ping pong playing was short-lived but in Palm Springs we hope it will echo throughout the space for the entire run of the show," says Brooke Hodge, Director of Architecture and Design.

Solomon will join fellow artist Jim Isermann, and Brooke Hodge, the museum's director of architecture and design, for a conversation about pattern and design in the Annenberg Theater on December 12, 2019.

Barbara Solomon. Breaking all the Rules. is organized by Brooke Hodge, Director of Architecture and Design, with generous support from L.J. Cella.

For more information about Palm Springs Art Museum exhibitions, programs, and events, please visit psmuseum.org or call (760) 322-4800.

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About Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the largest cultural institution in the Coachella Valley and includes three locations in Palm Springs and Palm Desert. The flagship building, located in downtown Palm Springs, features compelling art exhibitions, a vast permanent collection, and the Annenberg Theater, all in a 150,000-square-foot, architecturally significant building. The Palm Springs Art Museum Architecture and Design Center, Edwards Harris Pavilion, features exhibitions and programming that explore the rich topics of architecture and design. Palm Springs Art Museum in Palm Desert occupies The Galen, an 8,400-square-foot, Silver LEED–certified building, and features rotating exhibitions and special collections. The Galen is surrounded by the four-acre Faye Sarkowsky Sculpture Garden.