

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**USC Fisher**  
Museum of Art



(Left) *Up the Hudson to West Point*, David Johnson, 1858, Oil on canvas, The Elizabeth Holmes Fisher Collection, EF:46:03  
(Right) *Front-era*, Marta Palau, 1999, Acrylic, oil pastel, bamboo reeds, rope, glue on canvas, Museum Purchase, 2003.10, © 2018

**STAGED MEANING/MEANING STAGED**  
**LANDSCAPES FROM FISHER'S PERMANENT COLLECTION**  
**JANUARY 22 – APRIL 13, 2019**

**LOS ANGELES, USC FISHER MUSEUM OF ART** – To celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Elizabeth Holmes Fisher Gallery at the University of Southern California, Fisher Museum of Art is pleased to present *Staged Meaning/Meaning Staged*. This exhibition features selections of Old Master and Contemporary landscapes from Fisher's permanent collection. Through the prism of landscapes, these artworks collectively examine visual and ideological shifts in pictorial meaning.

Each artwork embodies the aesthetic and pedagogic trends of its original historical context. As an aggregate, the works reflect changing approaches to representing and interpreting art and societal values. *Staged Meaning* surveys how the Old Master artists in Fisher's permanent collection utilized landscape imagery to stage meaning prescribed by religion, history, allegory, and nationalist or expansionist ideology. The second part of the exhibition, *Meaning Staged*, adopts the concept of using landscapes as a vehicle for deriving individualized meaning, removed from the requirements of these historical contexts. Contemporary artists have initiated a shift by endowing the viewer with greater interpretive agency. That is, giving the

viewer an opportunity to collaborate with the artist and partake in meaning-making, unburdened by conventions of the past.

Among the artists featured in *Staged Meaning/Meaning Staged* are Jan Brueghel the Elder, Claude Lorrain, Théodore Rousseau, Thomas Cole, Mary Weatherford, Carlos Almaraz, Karla Klarin, and Marta Palau. Each artist approaches landscape with different intentions but with a pronounced inclusion of what we are calling “the scape.”

*Staged Meaning/Meaning Staged* is the first of two permanent collection exhibitions celebrating Fisher’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

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**About USC Fisher Museum of Art:** The USC Fisher Museum of Art - established in 1939 - is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center for intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC’s goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC’s present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists’ talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

**Located on the USC campus.**

823 Exposition Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90089

**Admission is free.**

**Museum Hours:**

Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm

Saturday 12-4pm

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