“PROJECT SERIES 50:
BRENNA YOUNGBLOOD”
PRESENTED BY THE
POMONA COLLEGE MUSEUM OF ART

“Project Series 50: Brenna Youngblood” will be on view Jan. 20 through May 17, 2015, at the Pomona College Museum of Art (330 N. College Avenue, Claremont). For this exhibition, the artist produced a new suite of paintings that consist of lyrically distressed six-foot-by-five-foot paintings that retain subtle collaged elements. The eight paintings on view explore gestural abstraction, color field painting and collage, which pose questions about memory, identity, and class.

The exhibition will have a public reception on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2014, from 5-7 p.m., at the Museum. The event is open to the public, and there is no cost to attend.

Youngblood creates evocative and moody abstract paintings and sculptures that subtly examine representation and the multiplicity of meaning. By combining materials—such as canvas, found papers, panel, faux wood and acrylic paint—with fragmented photographs of solitary everyday objects, she creates layered, expressionist, heavily-worked surfaces with both an elegiac and abject quality in their delicately worn roughness. She frequently utilizes a singular image or object—chain link fencing, a solitary chair or light bulb, a star or pine tree air freshener—to symbolize the ordinariness of a lonely or overlooked humanity. Other times, the repetition of forms haunts in reverberations of earlier lives that approach abstracted memories of emotional reality.

Like her Los Angeles-based contemporaries Mark Bradford and Elliott Hundley, Youngblood merges poignant autobiographical memories of domesticity with a masterful and complex layering of multiple images and materials. Her painterly surface treatments echo the abstract expressionism of Clyfford Still and Mark Rothko, and the incorporation of dark, tarnished found objects references assemblage artists such as Betye Saar, Noah Purifoy and George Herms. Yet, Youngblood disrupts familiar categories and forges a unique artistic vision that links referential abstraction with urban identity.

Born in Riverside, California, in 1979, Youngblood received her BFA from California State University, Long Beach and her MFA from the University of California, Los Angeles. She recently had a solo exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum St. Louis, and her work has been included in many major museum exhibitions, such as “Black in the Abstract, Part 2:

A catalogue, designed by Kimberly Varella with Becca Lofchie, Content Object Design Studio, accompanies the exhibition and includes essays by McGrew and the Studio Museum in Harlem curator and writer Naima Keith. The Project Series is supported in part by the Pasadena Art Alliance.

The Brenna Youngblood exhibition is the 50th in the Pomona College Museum of Art’s Project Series, which presents Southern California artists in focused exhibitions and is curated by Rebecca McGrew.

In fall 2015, the Museum will celebrate this milestone with “R.S.V.P. Los Angeles: The Project Series at Pomona,” an exhibition and publication connecting the extraordinary artists who have participated in the Project Series to a new generation of emerging or under-recognized artists in Southern California. A committee composed of Pomona College faculty, students and Museum staff will collectively determine artists, exhibition strategies, and publication content for this exhibition. Seven previous Project Series artists were asked to each nominate two emerging or lesser-known artists based in the Los Angeles area whose work contributes to the vibrant local contemporary art dialogue. The artists selected for “R.S.V.P. Los Angeles: The Project Series at Pomona” are: Justin Cole, Michael Decker, Naotaka Hiro, Wakana Kimura, Aydi Ortiz, Michael Parker, and Nikki Pressley.

**About Pomona College Museum of Art**

The Pomona College Museum of Art is located at 330 N. College Avenue, Claremont. The Museum is open to the public free of charge Tuesday through Sunday, from noon to 5 p.m., and Thursday, from noon to 11 p.m. For more information, call (909) 621-8283 or visit the museum’s Website: www.pomona.edu/museum.

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IMAGES AVAILABLE
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