

LOCALE



Paul Davies is an Australian-born, Los Angeles-based artist whose work is driven by the friction between opposing forces of built and natural environments, design and art, abstraction and figuration. These boundaries and relationships are illustrated through Davies' process, which combines painting, stenciling, photography and sculpture. Davies repeats and collages facades of modern architecture, the neutrality of which blurs what is revealed and concealed. Davies' work has been acquired by and exhibited at the University of California, Irvine, the Institute and Museum of California Art, Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Palm Springs Art Museum, Crocker Art Museum, MAK Center for Art and Architecture and the Laguna Art Museum. In 2016 he completed a residency at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture, Phoenix, and work from this is now in the permanent collection of the Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art, Arizona and McClelland Sculpture Park + Gallery, Melbourne. In 2013, he was awarded a residency at the Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris by the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

AS TOLD BY ALISON KUBLER

PAUL



MAK CENTER FOR ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Back in 2009 my wife Sarah and I made our first trip to Los Angeles and checked out the Fitzpatrick-Leland House in the Hollywood Hills. The house was designed by modernist architect RM Schindler in 1937 and is run by the MAK Center for Art and Architecture. Entering the house is like walking through a large-scale sculpture with bare open spaces that let the bright Californian sunlight indoors. In July last year I was invited to exhibit an installation of my sculptures, paintings and photographs at the house. We had a pool party to close the show and Aaron Benay (Dean, Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture and Director of the Venice Biennale of Architecture) came to give a floor talk with me about the work. The MAK Center has a diverse program of exhibitions and events including the MAK Games, held this year at the Shara-Goldstein Residence designed by John Lautner in Beverly Hills.

makcenter.org
makgallery.org

DAVIES IN LOS ANGELES



CINESPIA

Every summer Cineopia runs a program of film classics that are projected outdoors in the grounds of the Hollywood Forever Cemetery. Sitting in a cemetery late at night to watch a movie might seem like a weird idea but it's fun to go with friends, plus in Los Angeles there's no need for a 'plan B' weather-wise because you're pretty much guaranteed a clear night. Cineopia is hosted at the back section of the cemetery and to get there you pass the playground of old-school Hollywood celebrities like Alfred Hitchcock, which is pretty surreal. Sometimes bands play there, too, and in 2016 Sarah and I saw our friends Tame Impala live.

cineopia.org



CULVER CITY

To break up my week working in the studio I swim laps at the Culver City Municipal Plunge. They say that in LA it takes 30 minutes to get anywhere by car, and the same goes for the drive to Culver City from my home and studio in West Hollywood. The pool is all outdoors, which I love because it reminds me of the swimming pools back home in Australia. After that, I take the backstreets past the bungalow houses that look up to Baldwin Hills to get coffee or lunch at Donkey Cafe. The Scandinavian pastries are the best but the coffee is really good there, too. Culver City Arts District is also close by, with galleries like Blum & Poe and Honor Fraser, an awesome book store James Welling told me about when I first moved to LA called Arcana, plus the UCLA Graduate Art Studios and art supply store, Graphids.

www.blum.com
donkeycafe.com



HUNTINGTON LIBRARY AND GARDENS

This is one of my favorite places to take people visiting Los Angeles. The museum has an extensive permanent collection and light-filled galleries, but it's the botanical gardens that are most impressive. Sections of these are dedicated to countries, with an Australian-themed garden full of enormous eucalyptus trees. I love the Desert Garden because it reminds me of the different cactus plants I saw in Phoenix while I was on residency at the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. The Chinese garden is beautiful, too, and complemented by traditionally inspired architecture that is reflected in the surrounding lake.

huntington.org



LITTLE BEACH HOUSE MALIBU

When we have a free weekend Sarah and I drive out to Little Beach House (part of Soho House private members' club for creative industries). It sits right on the sand and has views from Malibu Point and pier all the way down to Santa Monica. We became members at Soho House when we moved to Los Angeles from Australia and it helped us to meet people and make friends. They also have an incredible art collection, curated by Kate Bryan, which is on permanent display at each of their locations around the world. Every house has a specific focus of artwork and my work has been placed in the houses at New York, Los Angeles, Mumbai and Barcelona.

sohohouse.com
littlebeachhouse-malibu.com

In 2019 Paul Davies will exhibit at Olsson Gysin, New York, from May 22 to June 23, 2019. Paul Davies has been commissioned to create a 7 x 2 m acrylic-on-canvas triptych for Soho House DTLA Warehouse, opening in 2020.

Paul Davies is represented by Sophie Gannon Gallery, Melbourne and Olsson Gysin, Sydney and New York.
sophiegannongallery.com.au | olssongysin.com.au