FACT SHEET

WHAT  
Pacific Standard Time is a collaboration of more than sixty cultural institutions across Southern California, that have come together to tell the story of the birth of the Los Angeles art scene and how it became a major new force in the art world. Jointly initiated by the Getty Foundation and the Getty Research Institute in 2002, Pacific Standard Time evolved into a huge series of exhibitions dedicated to the dynamic history of art in Los Angeles from the post-World War II era through the turbulent 1960s and 1970s. With grants from the Getty Foundation for archives, research, exhibitions, publications, and programs totaling more than $11 million, what began as a collaborative effort to preserve the historical record of the milestones in this region’s artistic history expanded into a great creative landmark.

Within Pacific Standard Time’s multitude of simultaneous exhibitions and programs, each participating institution has made its own contribution to a grand-scale story of artistic innovation and social change. Pacific Standard Time has encompassed developments from L.A. Pop to post-minimalism; from modernist architecture and design to multi-media installations; from the films of the African-American L.A. Rebellion to the feminist activities of the Woman’s Building; from ceramics to Chicano performance art; and from Japanese-American design to the pioneering work of artists’ collectives.

In addition to the more than 65 museum exhibitions presented as part of Pacific Standard Time, an eleven-day Performance and Public Art Festival co-organized by the Getty Research Institute and LA><ART took place in January 2012, featuring more than 30 extraordinary performances—including contemporary re-enactments of iconic works by artists such as Judy Chicago, Suzanne Lacy, Robert Wilhite, and James Turrell.

WHEN  
October 2011 – April 2012

WHO  
Pacific Standard Time has involved institutions of every size and character: from the Getty Museum, Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), Museum of Contemporary Art, Hammer Museum, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic to the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, Japanese American National Museum, Watts Towers Arts Center, and more than half a dozen university museums and programs.

WHERE  
Though concentrated in Greater Los Angeles, Pacific Standard Time has extended as far as San Diego in the south, Santa Barbara in the north, and Palm Springs in the east.

WHY  
Southern California gave birth to many of today’s most vital artistic trends—and yet the immensely rich story of how this came about, through unprecedented cultural innovation and social change, remains largely unknown. To document this pivotal moment and bring it to life for a wide audience, the partner institutions in Pacific Standard Time have conducted path-breaking research, which has been revealed in a comprehensive series of exhibitions and programs. The result has been nothing less than a new vision of the arts today, and how Los Angeles has played a decisive role in their development.