

For immediate release

Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina
December 9, 2017–February 17, 2018

Reston, VA: The Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to present an exhibition featuring the work of Paulina Peavy (b. 1901 Colorado Springs, Colorado; d. 1999, Bethesda, Maryland), on view from December 9, 2017 through February 17, 2018 at the Arts Center located at the Reston Town Center. *Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina* is the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy's works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. The exhibition title, *A Message to Paulina*, is taken from one of the artist's poems.

Peavy was formally trained at the Chouinard Art Institute in Los Angeles in the 1930s—a veritable pipeline of employment to one of the numerous animation studios in the area at the time, including Disney and Warner Bros—but excused herself from the mainstream arts community after becoming a regular attendee at a weekly séance in 1932. At these gatherings, the artist was introduced to her spirit muse, Lacamo, who she came to collaborate with for the remainder of her life. To better communicate with Lacamo, Peavy designed and donned masks while working in her studio. She occasionally signed Lacamo's name alongside her own.

Peavy dedicated her entire practice to expressing her (and Lacamo's) radical worldview and philosophy that humankind is evolving towards a single-sex species through contact with alien beings, or UFOs. She believed in reincarnation and a life-cycle based on the four seasons. Though she worked in isolation from other artists and movements, her work is reminiscent of Dada, Surrealism, and even Mexican muralism.

Peavy's most famous work was a mural entitled *Eternal Supper* painted in 1939 for the Golden Gate International Exposition, where Diego Rivera was on-site painting a mural that was later installed at San Francisco City College. Peavy subsequently painted over her contribution, as she did with many of her paintings. During her lifetime, her work was displayed at the San Diego Museum, Stanford University Gallery, Carnegie Hall, and Argent Gallery, New York, among other venues. Most recently, her work has been featured at Andrew Edlin Gallery, New York, and at the Dallas Art Fair, gaining recognition as one of ten artists to collect out of a selection of over 90 galleries.