

*Paulina  
Peavy:  
A Message  
to Paulina*

December 9, 2017–February 17, 2018

**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 that begins, "time underwrites its mysteries." Peavy's life was dedicated to exploring these mysteries.

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.





A MESSAGE TO PAULINA

time underwrites its mysteries  
as grandeur led in fathomed  
shores of splendor  
recreations  
when ages pass and time is held  
in dearsome lay the book of life  
then opens wide to spend by birth  
the reasons and the wheres  
that evermore are there  
within the ribboned  
stellar terrestrial  
roads we travel to  
unravel to it, to  
the mysterious  
station house  
of life

ah, no, in answer to the query sent  
regarding then almighty god,  
that vast finite infinite  
cause which is the  
solar core called  
seed, we find  
but deeper mystery,  
for, as knowledge grows,  
extends, its heights are  
deeper than its deepest  
depths, and thought  
expands engaging  
in its hallowed  
aching spheres







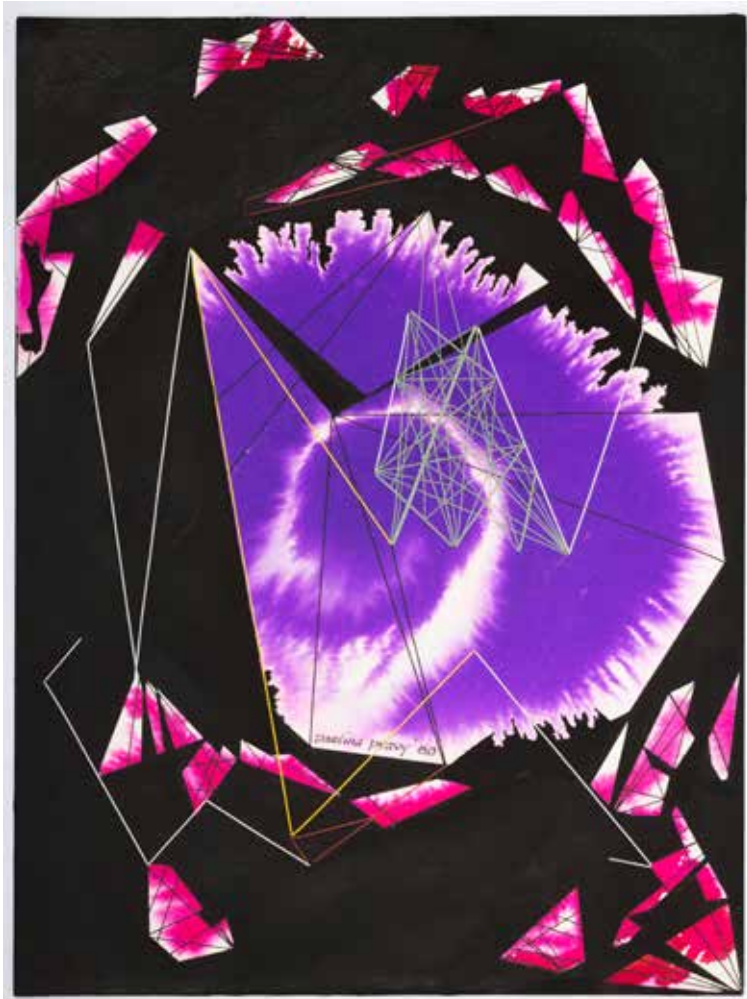


*Paulina Petroff*









## BIOGRAPHY

Paulina Peavy was born in 1901 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. She graduated from Oregon State College (OSC) in 1923 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Education and completed her MA at the Chouinard School of Fine Art in Los Angeles. Peavy lived in Los Angeles and San Francisco from 1932 to 1942, and later moved to New York. Peavy lived to be 98 years old, passing away in 1999, having witnessed nearly the entire 20th Century. Her work was most notably featured at the 1939 Golden Gate International Exposition in San Francisco where she painted a fourteen foot mural titled *The Eternal Supper*, depicting her own philosophical belief in the one-gender perfection.

All works are untitled and undated.











The mission of the Greater Reston Arts Center is to enrich community life by promoting involvement and excellence in contemporary visual arts.

We gratefully acknowledge the leadership of our Board of Directors and the valued support of our sponsors, members, and patrons.

This catalog was published in conjunction with the Greater Reston Arts Center's exhibition *Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina* on view December 9, 2017–February 17, 2018, made possible in part through the generous support of ORConsulting and Allegra Print. All works in the exhibition are courtesy of Andrew Edlin Gallery and Katharine Armstrong Artist Management.



© 2017 Greater Reston Arts Center. All Rights Reserved.

All images courtesy of Andrew Edlin Gallery and Katharine Armstrong Artist Management.

Greater Reston Arts Center programs are supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and Reston Community Center.



# GreaterRestonArtsCenter

12001 Market Street, Suite 103 • Reston, VA 20190 • 703.471.9242

[RESTONARTS.ORG](http://RESTONARTS.ORG) • Always free and open to the public