

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Author Erika Esau lecture and book signing at the California State Library**

Sacramento -- September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – *Food For Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library* presents Fulbright Scholar, art historian and author Erika Esau. She will be presenting in her newly published book *Images of the Pacific Rim: Australia and California 1850 – 1935* (Power Publications, University of Sydney). Books will be available for purchase and signature that evening, \$50.00 including tax. Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> Lecture begins at 6:00 p.m., 900 N Street, California History Room, doors open at 5:00 p.m., light refreshments will be served.

Australia and California have shared aesthetic ideas through imported popular imagery for nearly two hundred years. *Images of the Pacific Rim* tells the fascinating story of aesthetic exchange between two ‘cultures on the periphery’. Through photography, graphic art, architecture, and the ubiquitous eucalyptus, this book reveals the source elements of what became a ‘Pacific Rim’ aesthetic.

Author Sam Watters says: “Both were maligned, sunny outposts under the thumb of old paternalistic cultures. Both needed to define their place in the world and both accomplished the task through interpretation and appropriation. How images assisted in the cultural definition of these lands is told here by a native Californian, who, not surprisingly, found herself at home in Australia.”

Erika Esau is a native Californian who spent more than a decade teaching art history at the Australian National University, Canberra. Her writings on Australian art and culture include the *Blue Guide Australia* (with George Boeck) and *E.O. Hoppé's Australia* (with Graham Howe). She was a Fellow at the Huntington Library, and currently works as librarian at the Rifkind Center for German Expressionist Studies at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

Additionally, the Mead B. Kibbey Gallery of the California State Library’s current exhibit *California Calls You: The Art of Promoting the Golden State, 1870 – 1940* features historic examples of the beautiful and colorful booster materials designed to attract tourists and home seekers to the Golden State prominently featured in Erika’s book.

These now rare publications touted California as a land of perpetual spring and boundless opportunity. Featured in the display are spectacular images created by California’s great commercial artists promoting natural wonders, this unprecedented public relations campaign literally lured millions to this land of “health, wealth, and sunshine.” The gallery is open Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and high quality reproductions are available from Zazzle.com

For more information please contact Rebecca Ann Fontaine at [rfontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:rfontaine@library.ca.gov) or 916.215.9280.

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California State Library Foundation**

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Editor’s Note: *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library* Fall Schedule attached.



Just a quick program update for *Food for Thought: Thinking and Talking at the California State Library*. We wanted to let you in on the current plans for our programs. Doors open at 5:00p.m., presentations begin at 6:00p.m., and all events take place at 900 N Street in Sacramento.

To help you plan ahead, here is a tentative schedule of events:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Film or Topic</u>	<u>Description</u>
September 21	<i>Author Erika Esau</i>	<b>Fulbright Scholar, art historian and author Erika Esau's newly published <i>Images of the Pacific Rim: Australia and California 1850 – 1935</i> (Power Publications, University of Sydney). Books will be available for purchase and to sign that evening,</b>
October 19	<i>An Evening of Cemetery Stories</i>	<b>Cemetery Stories from the Sacramento Old City Cemetery, and a showing of <i>The Young &amp; the Dead</i> which tells the story of how the Hollywood Memorial Cemetery became Hollywood Forever - a metamorphosis from decrepit burial ground to a modern, interactive, state-of-the-art facility. This cemetery became, according to <i>LA Magazine</i>, one of the sexiest places in LA!</b>
November 16	<i>Author David A. Carter</i>  <i>Pop-Up Books</i>	<b>David A. Carter is a master paper engineer who created the <i>Bugs</i> series which has sold over 6 million copies for Little Simon. He is the author and illustrator of the critically acclaimed color series featuring <i>One Red Dot</i>, <i>Blue 2</i>, <i>600 Black Spots</i>, <i>Yellow Square</i>, and <i>White Noise</i>.</b>
December 21	<i>Holiday Children's Program</i>	<b>Celebrate the Holiday Season with Children's stories from around the world.</b>

More public events that will be hosted at the California State Library this fall:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Film or Topic</b>	<b>Description</b>
September 14	Education Fair	Speak with various college and university representatives to get answers about educational programs, transfer credits, financing your education and to discuss how to align your current professional skills with career advancement opportunities.
September 28	<i>Banned Book Week</i> <i>September 24 - October 1</i>	Stop by our Fragrance Garden between 11:30am & 2:30pm and listen to banned books passages read by local celebrities.
October 1	<i>Sacramento's First Annual "Explore History: Sacramento Archives Crawl"</i>	The California State Library is hosting along with State Archives, Sacramento Public Library and the Center for Sacramento History. At each location, you can view archival collections on display and take behind-the-scenes tours. Representatives from other archives and special collections libraries will be on hand to discuss their archival collections - historic photographs, rare books, historic artifacts - and answer your questions about how to connect with local history resources.
October 15	<i>Braille and talking Book Library Reception</i>	In Commemoration of the 80 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pratt-Smoot law that established the National Library Service for books for the blind.
October 15	<i>Library Night with the Sacramento Mountain Lions</i>	Join the California State Library at a Sacramento Mountain Lions game - proceeds benefitting the California State Library Foundation.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please send your ideas to Rebecca Ann Fontaine at [rfontaine@library.ca.gov](mailto:rfontaine@library.ca.gov). Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at our next *Food for Thought* event.