



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DARIN JOHNSTONE ARCHITECTS UNVEILS  
THE PETER AND MERLE MULLIN GALLERY  
New State-of-the-Art Automotive Gallery's Car-Inspired Design Celebrates  
ArtCenter's Influential Role in Transportation Design and Innovation**



**PASADENA, CA (October 22, 2018)** - Los Angeles-based architecture and design studio [Darin Johnstone Architects](#) (DJA) announces the completion of the Peter and Merle Mullin Gallery, a state-of-the-art automotive and fine art gallery located on the ground floor of the 1111 South Arroyo Parkway building, one of the newest additions to ArtCenter's growing South Campus. The expansive 6,300 sf space is designed to function as an automotive gallery in keeping with the donor's passions and prolific car collection and ArtCenter's dedication to innovation in automotive design. The Peter and Merle Mullin Gallery opens to the public on October 26, 2018 with the "Iconic Design: 70 Years of ArtCenter Influence" exhibition, part of ArtCenter's much-anticipated Car Classic 2018, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the College's Transportation Design program. The exhibition will be on view from October 28, 2018 through late 2019.

“ArtCenter’s commitment to design education and culture actualized through building is incredible, and it is a true honor to work with such an amazing institution. The Mullin Gallery in particular has been an exciting challenge. The presence of the gallery on the street, at this historic nexus in the city, and the gesture of the ‘fin wall’, signifies and reinforces the presence of ArtCenter in the urban and cultural landscape of the city. The design developed in a really interesting way. It started as a simple gallery but the more we thought about the automobile as an object of art inside the gallery as well as an instrument for viewing the gallery while moving through the city the more the project evolved. In a way it caused us to turn the project inside out and project back into the city.” said architect Darin Johnstone.

Designed to feature the automobile as an object of art, the gallery itself reflects the beauty of modern transportation design. The main entrance to the otherwise rectilinear space is presented by a large curvilinear wall that keys into the aerodynamic shape of automobiles, and very purposefully reflects the exact turning radius of the average vehicle. This feature wall extends from the interior to the exterior where it dematerializes into 12-foot-high steel fins that create a lenticular effect. On approach from the south, the public sculpture, which also serves as a subtle screen, displays “Mullin” in bold graphics. When approached from the north, the fin wall displays “Gallery.” The gallery features two large pocketing glass doors which allow automobiles easy access to the space. Beyond the glass walls, a terrace and built-in seating that flank the fin wall extend the gallery’s footprint to allow indoor and outdoor activation. The placement and visibility of the gallery at this intersection in the city embodies ArtCenter’s importance in the evolution of automotive design.

“We used auto pathways to form the curving walls that organize the interior gallery, the exterior courtyard, and the parking and garden areas beyond. This language of curved walls was used to form all the discrete elements of the project; gallery walls, reception desk, exterior walls, benches, and planters. In particular, the dematerialized ‘fin wall’

that separates the gallery courtyard from the street became a key design feature that we are really excited about.” said Johnstone.

The Mullin Gallery will not feature any permanent collections. In addition to transportation related exhibits the multi-functional gallery is planned to showcase various topics in art and design in the coming years. Stephen Nowlin, Director of the Alyce de Roulet Williamson Gallery in the historic Ellwood building at ArtCenter’s Hillside Campus will also be the director of the Mullin Gallery.

The Terri and Jerry Kohl Commons adjacent to the Mullin Gallery on level one and the Bruce Heavin and Lynda Weinman Alumni Center on the fourth floor of 1111 South Arroyo Parkway Building are two more DJA designed projects opening in conjunction with the Mullin Gallery this month.

In the 1111 South Arroyo parkway building DJA has designed and completed ArtCenter renovations on four out of the six building levels and is currently working on plans to renovate level two. With ArtCenter to date, DJA has designed and completed 8 building renovation projects for 7 different departments over the last five years totaling over 130,000 square feet of academic space including classrooms, galleries, archives, studios, labs, cafes, public spaces, offices and support spaces.

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