



PRESS RELEASE

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BAMPFA Mounts “Way Bay,” a Monumental Exhibition of the SF Bay Area’s Artistic Legacy

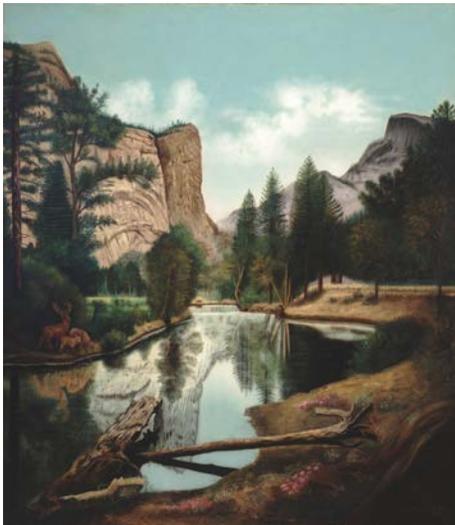
On View January 17–May 6, 2018

Exhibition Showcases Bay Area Multidisciplinary Creative Practice From 19th Through 21st Centuries

Highlights Include Dozens of New BAMPFA Collection Acquisitions

Press Preview: Tuesday, January 16, 2018 at 10 a.m.

RSVP to afox@berkeley.edu

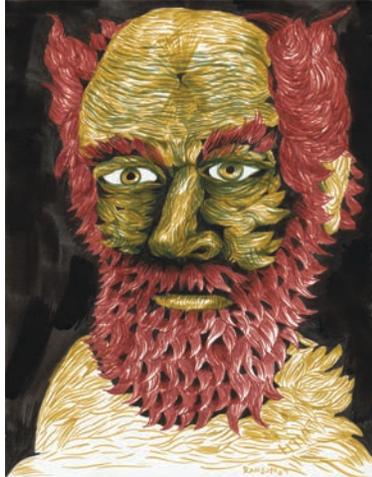


(Berkeley, CA) November 2, 2017—The UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive ([BAMPFA](http://bampfa.org)) opens its 2018 exhibition program with a sweeping exploration of the creative energies that have emerged from the San Francisco Bay Area over the past 200 years. An innovatively organized exhibition of art, film, performance, poetry, and archival materials, **Way Bay** features more than 200 works by Bay Area artists and others whose work engages with the region’s geographic, social, and cultural landscape. The exhibition includes dozens of recent acquisitions, many of them never before exhibited in a museum setting.

The historical scope of **Way Bay** ranges from precolonial works by the Bay Area’s indigenous Ohlone culture, through the region’s emergence as a multicultural center of global commerce in the mid-nineteenth century, to its present-day status as a site of tremendous economic and cultural transition. The exhibition explores the enduring themes and powerful artistic voices that have emerged from the region,

highlighting transhistorical affinities among the many artists, filmmakers, authors, and other creative practitioners who have drawn inspiration from the Bay’s distinctive character. Works by artists and filmmakers such as **Bruce Baillie, Lutz Bacher, Joan Brown, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Enrique Chagoya, Richard Diebenkorn, Ernie Gehr, Saburo Hasegawa, Sargent Johnson, Joanne Leonard, Chiura Obata, Helen Clark Oldfield, Joe Overstreet, Alice Anne Parker Severson, Rosie Lee Tompkins, Carlos Villa,** and

many others are juxtaposed throughout the exhibition, with particular recognition of the contributions of women and people of color.



Way Bay includes a prominent film component, with continuous screenings in the gallery that highlight the Bay Area's rich history as an incubator for avant-garde and experimental cinema. The gallery also displays films offering unique views of various Bay Area locales over time—including a silent film that captures life on the streets of San Francisco just days before the 1906 earthquake destroyed much of the city.

A special feature of the exhibition is a section devoted to highlights of BAMPFA's extensive archive of video and audio recordings of Bay Area artists. Poetry by Bay Area writers will also be presented through an original, interactive postcard project.

Building on its existing strengths in Bay Area art, BAMPFA has acquired dozens of new works specifically for the exhibition, including many recent gifts, that are being exhibited in **Way Bay** for the first time since entering the collection. Notable highlights include:

- Gordon Onslow Ford's Surrealist painting, *Painter and the Muse*
- Richard Diebenkorn's important Berkeley period painting, *Studio Wall*
- Joanne Leonard's photographs of the West Oakland neighborhood in the 1950s
- Xara Thustra's monumental 9/11 memorial painting
- Erica Deeman's powerful photographic portrait, *Marvin*

In addition to works from BAMPFA's collection, **Way Bay** includes exceptional paintings, prints, photographs, and other works borrowed from UC Berkeley's Bancroft Library and Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology. These rarely seen works extend the historical range of the exhibition back to the early nineteenth century.

"With one of the oldest museum collections in Northern California—which includes significant strengths in art from and about the region—BAMPFA is an ideal institution to mount one of the most expansive exhibitions of Bay Area art in recent memory," said BAMPFA Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder, who co-organized the exhibition with Film Curator Kathy Geritz and Engagement Associate David Wilson. "This exhibition is not a conventional historical survey but rather an open-ended and provocative attempt to reveal hidden currents and connections among works from disparate times, cultures, and communities."



In conjunction with **Way Bay**, BAMPFA is mounting a series of performances and other public programs, including readings by local poets and interactive workshops in the Fisher Family Art Lab that invite visitors to participate in creative projects inspired by the Bay Area. Visit bampfa.org for current information.

Support

Way Bay is organized by Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder, Film Curator Kathy Geritz, and Engagement Associate David Wilson, with Curatorial Assistant Matthew Coleman and Assistant Film

Archivist Jon Shibata. The exhibition is made possible with lead support from Nion McEvoy and Leslie Berriman. Additional support is provided by Alexandra Bowes and Stephen Williamson, Rena Bransten, Gertrud V. Parker, Janie and Jeff Green, and others.

Above

- 1) Emma Michalitschke: *Yosemite Landscape*, 1913; oil on canvas; 50 x 44 in.; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; Gift of Emma Michalitschke.
- 2) Daniel Higgs and Kyle Ranson: *Morph Traits*, 2007-2010; drawings on paper; dimensions variable; University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive; Museum purchase: Bequest of Phoebe Apperson Hearst, by exchange.

Visitor Information

Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Information

bampfa.org

(510) 642-0808

Social Media

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About BAMPFA

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, and seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.