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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Curator Takes the Helm at Bakersfield Museum of Art**

**Victor Gonzales Appointed Effective March 1, 2023**

**Bakersfield, Calif. – March 14, 2023:** The Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMoA) announces the appointment of Victor Gonzales as its new Curator of Collections and Exhibitions, effective March 1, 2023.

Gonzales served as BMoA’s interim curator since November 2022, when Rachel McCullah Wainwright vacated the curator post to open RAM Gallery. Gonzales prevailed over dozens of applicants from across the United States during the search. “Victor’s education and innovative ideas for future exhibits convinced us that he is exactly what BMoA needs,” said BMoA board member Laura Cattani.

Gonzales, a Bakersfield native, is a graduate of California State University Bakersfield where he received his bachelor's degree in art with a concentration in studio art and a minor in psychology. Gonzales says his passion for the arts stems from the religious imagery he encountered as a student at Our Lady of Guadalupe School and Garces Memorial High School. “Seeing depictions of Catholicism in rich, vibrant ways established my interest in the power of art to convey a narrative with such intensity. My work as a studio artist explores the connection between external events—pop culture, religion, politics—and the mind.”

Gonzales has exciting plans for BMoA. “Over the next 5 years, the community can look to BMoA for exhibitions and events celebrating artists whose work creates important conversations about society.” About BMoA’s role in the community, Gonzales says “museums are for everyone. Every age. Every background. Everyone. The exhibitions and events we’re planning now will underline that fact.”

As interim curator, Gonzales created two exhibitions on view now: *Color + Abstraction: Select Works From BMoA’s Permanent Collection* and *Dynamic, Surreal, Vibrant: Marion Osborn Cunningham*.

“Victor’s creativity and dedication greatly impressed the search committee,” said BMOA Executive Director Amy Smith. “We’re excited to bring his vision for BMOA’s future to life, which aligns wonderfully well with the museum’s own goals.”

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## **ABOUT BMOA**

The Bakersfield Museum of Art’s mission is to inspire and engage diverse audiences by providing a broad spectrum of creative visual arts experiences through the exhibition and preservation of fine art, educational programs, community outreach and special events. BMOA is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. with free admission and extended hours until 8 p.m. every First Friday of the month. The Museum is closed most major holidays. Visit [bmoa.org](http://bmoa.org) or call (66) 323-7219 for more information. Follow the museum on Facebook and Instagram @thebmoa and on Twitter @bmoa.