

The logo for the Bakersfield Museum of Art features a stylized, upward-pointing blue arrow or wing shape above the text "Bakersfield Museum of Art".

Bakersfield Museum of Art

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**High School Artists' Exhibition Challenges Bias in 2021 BMoA ArtWorks Exhibition**

June 29, 2021 – Thirteen gifted high school artists will display work that uncovers biases, stereotypes and expectations of identity in the exhibition “Deconstructing the Lens: Selections from the Students in the BMoA ArtWorks Program.”

The exhibition is the culmination of a 6-week intensive program, ArtWorks, that develops and enhances students’ artistic skills while participating in a range of visual arts enrichment activities. During ArtWorks, students work alongside Museum staff, engage in discussions with professional guest speakers and artists, design an exhibition, and develop work for inclusion in the exhibition.

The exhibition theme chosen by this year’s ArtWorks class explores the sources, reasons, and purpose of the lenses we use to perceive the world around us, and the stereotypes that define our world. Media in the exhibition range from painting and sculpture to paper craft and digital drawings.

The 2021 ArtWorks program included both virtual and in-person sessions. Student artists discussed traditional and experimental media, art theory, public art, and portfolio critique with local artists including Art Sherwyn, Jennifer Williams Cordova, and Shaleah Moore, and CUSB art history professor Jesse Sugarman.

“The students in this program are among the most talented young artists in our county. We feel strongly that nurturing this talent is a fundamental to our mission of bringing diverse, contemporary art to Kern County,” said BMoA curator Rachel Magnus.

"Art education is an essential part of a well-rounded education," said BMoA Executive Director Amy Smith. “By participating in ArtWorks, these exceptional students get a real-world understanding of the several career paths open to them while they pursue their interests in the visual arts.”

ArtWorks is generously supported by the Robert Raskind Foundation and the Bakersfield North Rotary Foundation.

“Deconstructing the Lens” will premiere online at [bmoa.org/current](http://bmoa.org/current) on Wednesday, June 30. Objects in the exhibition can be viewed in person at the Kern County High School District Administrative Offices at 5801 Sundale Avenue August 23 through November 24.

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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 a.m. to 4 p.m. with free admission and extended hours until 8 p.m. every First Friday of the month. The Museum will be closed most major holidays. Visit [bmoa.org](http://bmoa.org) or call 661-323-7219 for more information. Follow BMOA on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) @thebmoa #thebmoa.