

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

# Exhibits Examine Body and Soul: BMoA Spring 2022 Exhibitions Open April 28, 2022

**Bakersfield, CA – April 14:** Three new exhibitions that discuss identity and humanity premiere at the Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMoA) on Thursday, April 28 during an opening reception from 7 PM to 9 PM. Admission is free to BMoA members or \$10 per person for non-members.

### **Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press**

A traveling exhibition curated by the Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, CA, *Personal to Political* is a display of diverse media and imagery from African American artists who have worked at the Paulson Fontaine Press, a Berkeley, California-based fine art studio.

The 54 paintings, quilts, prints, and sculptures in the exhibition address “the conversation of race and representation in contemporary art” says Carrie Lederer, curator of *Personal to Political* at Bedford Gallery. This exhibition of both figurative and abstract work, Lederer notes, “channels the poetics of the human experience from past and present and boldly presents ideas about history, identity, personal stories, and spiritual inspiration.”

“This exhibition has been several years in the making,” says BMoA curator Rachel Wainwright. “BMoA is the penultimate stop for this exhibition on its national tour. We are honored to host it for our community, and to be a catalyst for conversations that invite growth through the creation and appreciation of art.”

*Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press* was organized by Bedford Gallery at the Leshner Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA, and is presented at BMoA by Blue Ribbon Circle. The exhibition closes August 20, 2022.

### **Under the Kern County Sky: Prapat Sirinavarat**

The work of Bakersfield-based and Bangkok-born artist Prapat Sirinavarat “illuminates new paths into understanding and questioning our place in the universe,” says Wainwright, through minute details from the natural world and the Buddhist tradition set in scenes that are both celestial and microbiological. His dreamlike scenes reflect the influence of mid-twentieth century Surrealism and its distinctive combination of concept and creation in the modern world.

*Under the Kern County Sky: Prapat Sirinavarat* is presented by the City of Bakersfield. The exhibition closes January 7, 2023.

**Exploring the Figure: Selections from BMOA's Permanent Collection**

*Exploring the Figure* highlights the myriad of approaches in which artists have used the figure to communicate. Surveying an 80-year period and selected from the Museum's Permanent Collection, the exhibit explores the history of portraiture and how the human figure is used to express beliefs, identity, and what it means to be human. BMOA's Permanent Collection, comprised of over 400 pieces, highlights California artists from the 19th century to the present and seeks to present a comprehensive survey of art produced in and about California.

*Exploring the Figure: Selections from BMOA's Permanent Collection* is presented by Don and Sue Deininger. The exhibition closes January 7, 2023.

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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 a.m. to 4 p.m. 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 661-323-7219 for more information.

**ABOUT BEDFORD GALLERY**

Bedford Gallery, a program of the City of Walnut Creek, exhibits the work of historic, modern, and contemporary artists. The Gallery is dedicated to providing the public with opportunities to learn about visual arts through public programs that are varied, accessible, challenging, and educational. Its mission is to provide exhibitions and other programs that both reflect and engage the diverse audiences of the entire Contra Costa region.