



MEDIA CONTACT:  
Lauren Marty  
Bakersfield Museum of Art  
(661) 323-7219  
[lmarty@bmoa.org](mailto:lmarty@bmoa.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Bakersfield Museum of Art Debuts Winter 2023 Exhibitions**

**Bakersfield, CA – January 13:** Three new exhibits premiere at the Bakersfield Museum of Art (BMoA) during its opening reception on Thursday, January 26, 2023, from 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM.

*Rotem Reshef: Vista* is a love letter to the San Joaquin Valley by New York- and Tel-Aviv-based painter and installation artist Rotem Reshef. Her work invites conversation through immersive installations and paintings that reflect on climate change and its impact on the environment. During a 2021 visit to Bakersfield, she became fascinated by the Panorama Vista Nature Preserve and the vast oil derricks and mostly dry riverbed that lie just beyond.

Years of drought, a local economy dependent on both agriculture and oil, and endangered native vegetation could present an opportunity for activists to begin assigning blame. Reshef did not. Instead, she found connection, beauty, and healing.

Described by art critic Peter Frank as “a grand and vital spectacle,” *Vista* is an immersive installation of 11 serpentine canvas-covered structures and 10 stretched canvases that contain imprints of native flowers, trees, and shrubs, like cottonwood, sycamore, mesquite, black willow, and more. Collected with the help of local conservation groups, Reshef applied the trimmings and other waste to her scrolls in shades of brown, ochre, gray, and yellow paint, recalling the rolling mountains and expanses of farmland that run throughout the southern San Joaquin Valley. A large blue scroll weaves itself through the center of the installation, recalling the roaring Kern River.

*Vista* is Reshef’s first solo museum exhibition on the West Coast. She says, “I believe in the power of art to mediate between polarities, and trust that beauty and significance may also be found in both, and through that, form new relationships between them and the people involved.”

*Rotem Reshef: Vista* is on view through September 6, 2023.

As a collecting institution, BMoA focuses on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century art made in and about California. Works of art from the museum’s Permanent Collection of more than 400 items are

shared in *Color + Abstraction: Select Works from BMOA's Permanent Collection*. This exhibit is a survey of the many ways color influences the viewer. Several renowned artists whose work are included in the exhibition have also had solo exhibitions at BMOA, including Charles Arnoldi (2018), Linda Christensen (2021), Stephen Douglas (2017), Art Sherwyn (2021), and Marion Osborn Cunningham (2106) in whose memory the Cunningham Memorial Gallery – now the Bakersfield Museum of Art – was originally established.

*Color + Abstraction: Select Works from BMOA's Permanent Collection* is on view through April 8, 2023.

Also on view this season is *Dynamic, Surreal, Vibrant: Marion Osborn Cunningham*, a selection of the artist's nearly 100 paintings, prints, and drawings that are the cornerstone of BMOA's Permanent Collection. Cunningham began her career as an artist under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Emerson at Bakersfield High School (then Kern County Union High School). Cunningham became a celebrated printmaker and painter, known for her vibrant, decorative use of color, dreamlike landscapes, and highly skilled compositions. BMOA's charter includes a commitment to collect and care for Cunningham's work.

These three exhibitions join *Of Rope and Chain Her Bones Are Made* to complete BMOA's Winter 2023 season. *Of Rope and Chain* is a collection of 44 objects by nine Los Angeles-based female artists who, through textiles, oil paintings, cast bronze, porcelain, drawings, and other materials, reference both the natural world and human labor in their work. Though the artists have aesthetic interests in common, they use different media and techniques to boldly confront the viewer in a celebration of gender, history, and our broader humanity. *Of Rope and Chain* remains on view until May 6, 2023.

Admission to the opening reception is free for BMOA members, \$5 per person for students and seniors, or \$10 per person for non-members.

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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.