



PRESS RELEASE

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## **BAMPFA to Mount Irwin Kremen Exhibition** On View April 26–August 27

### **MATRIX Presentation Will Showcase Kremen's Intricate Collage Works**



(Berkeley, CA) March 30, 2017—The UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive ([BAMPFA](#)) will mount an exhibition of work by Irwin Kremen, who is widely acclaimed for his intricate abstract collages. [Irwin Kremen / MATRIX 265](#) will encompass 23 works that span 40 years of Kremen's creative practice. The exhibition marks the latest installment in BAMPFA's [MATRIX Program](#)—a series that connects Bay Area audiences to important work by exceptional contemporary artists. Organized by BAMPFA Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder, the exhibition will be on view from April 26 through August 27, 2017.

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM · PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE**  
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Though his work as a collage artist has received decades of critical acclaim, Kremen began his artistic practice at the relatively late age of 41, during an academic career in the field of psychology. His relationship to the art world dates back much earlier, however, beginning with his tenure as a student at Black Mountain College in Asheville, NC—which had previously produced such trailblazing avant-garde figures as Merce Cunningham, David Tudor, and John Cage, whom Kremen later met while living in Greenwich Village in the late 1940s and early 1950s. (Cage’s iconic composition *4’33”* was dedicated to Kremen.) He eventually went on to pursue a PhD in clinical psychology at Harvard University and began experimenting with collage art in the late 1960s while serving as director of the Duke University Graduate Program in Clinical Psychology. He received his first solo exhibition in 1977 organized by the Smithsonian Institution’s National Collection of Fine Arts.

While Kremen has worked in various artistic media, the exhibition at BAMPFA will consist exclusively of his collage work. The works are composed of weathered scraps of paper—typically torn from street posters in European and American cities, including Berkeley—that are assembled into compositions held together by delicate Japanese paper hinges. Kremen’s collages are especially notable for their formal intricacy, with minute textural variations that become apparent only with close viewing. The collages draw on the compositional boldness of Abstract Expressionism, as well as the radical use of diverse materials associated with Black Mountain College.

“For more than half a century, Irwin Kremen has challenged and expanded the very definition of collage artwork with his meticulous compositions, some of which are represented in BAMPFA’s own permanent collection,” said Rinder. “BAMPFA is proud to be the first West Coast institution to mount a solo exhibition of work by this internationally celebrated artist, whose groundbreaking style aligns perfectly with the adventurous spirit of our MATRIX series.”

In conjunction with the opening of *Irwin Kremen / MATRIX 265*, BAMPFA will host an artist’s talk with Kremen on Wednesday, April 26 at 12:15 p.m., during which the ninety-two-year-old artist will discuss the development of his creative practice over the past several decades. The talk is free with museum admission. For further information, visit BAMPFA’s [website](#).

### **Support**

*Irwin Kremen / MATRIX 265* is organized by BAMPFA director and chief curator Lawrence Rinder. The MATRIX Program is made possible by a generous endowment gift from Phyllis C. Wattis and the continued support of the BAMPFA trustees.

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## **Above**

Irwin Kremen: *Imagine Inventing Yellow (for M. C. Richards)*, 1976; paper and luminescent paint; 59/16 × 51/16 in.; from the Kremen Family Collections.

## **Visitor Information**

### Address

2155 Center Street Berkeley, CA 94704

### 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](http://bampfa.org)

(510) 642-0808

### Gallery Admission

\$12 general admission

\$10 Non-Berkeley students, disabled, 65+

Free for BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff, and retirees; 18 & under + one adult

Free First Thursdays: Free gallery admission on the first Thursday of each month

## **Social Media**

[facebook.com/bampfa](https://facebook.com/bampfa)

[twitter.com/bampfa](https://twitter.com/bampfa)

[instagram.com/bampfa](https://instagram.com/bampfa)

## **About BAMPFA**

Internationally recognized for its art and film programming, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a platform for cultural experiences that transform individuals, engage communities, and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's primary visual arts venue with screenings of some 450 films and presentations of up to twenty exhibitions annually. BAMPFA's mission is to inspire the imagination and ignite critical dialogue through art and film.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3,000 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, seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.

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