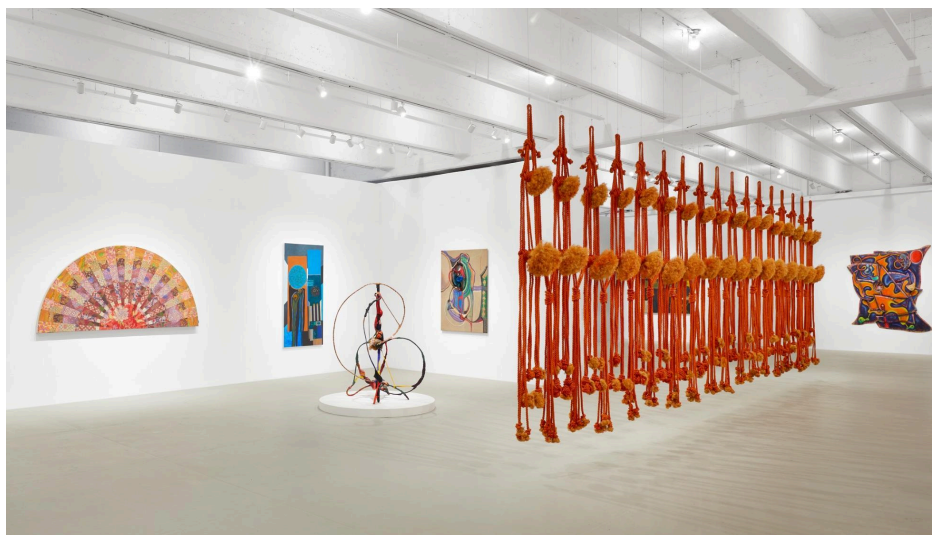


***Making Their Mark* Exhibition at BAMPFA Highlights Pathbreaking Women Artists of the Past Eight Decades**

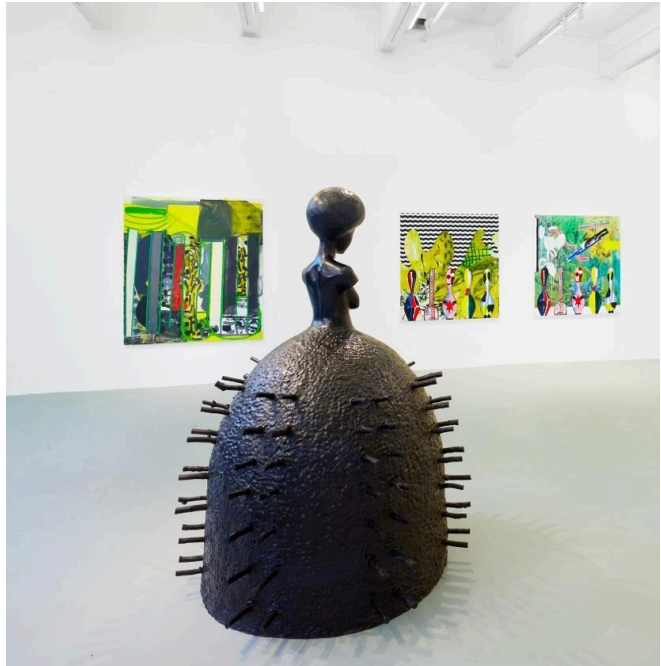


**On view October 26, 2024 through April 20, 2025**

**Exhibition Accompanies a Major Gift by Collectors Komal Shah and Guarav Garg to Advance Scholarship on Women Artists at BAMPFA**

*(Berkeley, CA) March 25, 2024*—The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive will present the exclusive West Coast engagement of *Making Their Mark: Works from the Shah Garg Collection*, a widely acclaimed exhibition of one of the leading private collections of work by women artists. *Making Their Mark* is the first public presentation of this important collection, which premiered in New York in 2023 and was assembled by the Bay Area philanthropist Komal

Shah and her husband Gaurav Garg. More than seventy artists are represented in the exhibition, which juxtaposes contemporary practices with pathbreaking historical works to illuminate transgenerational affinities, influences, and methodologies among artists from the postwar era to the present. The exhibition's Berkeley presentation coincides with the launch of the Shah Garg Women Artists Research Fund, which will support new scholarship in the form of public programs, publications, and exhibitions featuring women artists at BAMPFA.



BAMPFA's presentation of *Making Their Mark* follows the exhibition's opening in New York last year at 548 West 22nd Street. The BAMPFA exhibition is curated by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen Jr. Director and Chief Curator of High Line Art and BAMPFA Chief Curator Margot Norton. BAMPFA's presentation of *Making Their Mark* will include a unique selection of works from the Shah Garg Collection, including works that will go on view for the first time. The exhibition will highlight women artists with deep ties to the Bay Area such as Mary Corse, Trude Guermonprez, Mary Heilmann, Mary Lovelace O'Neal, Elizabeth Murray, and Kay Sekimachi, as well as other internationally distinguished artists including Lynda Benglis, Barbara Chase-Riboud, Sonya Gomes, Maria Lassnig, Joan Mitchell, Julie Mehretu, Howardena Pindell, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, and many others. Following its BAMPFA engagement, *Making Their Mark* will travel to the Kemper Art Museum in St. Louis, Missouri in September 2025.

In developing the exhibition's curatorial focus at BAMPFA, Norton has emphasized the intergenerational dialogues between artists who circumvent and break through conventions in artmaking, embracing craft techniques, unconventional supports, and alternative materials—drawing illuminating parallels between the work of younger artists like Aria Dean, Tau

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Lewis, Christina Quarles, Tschabalala Self, and Rose Simpson and older generations of artists who preceded them. These themes are further illuminated in the book accompanying the exhibition, *Making Their Mark: Art by Women in the Shah Garg Collection*, which includes important new scholarship and critical essays on many of the artists represented in the exhibition. Coedited by Mark Godfrey and Katy Siegel, the book will be available for purchase in the BAMPFA Store.

To further advance this vital scholarship, BAMPFA will inaugurate a major multiyear initiative in 2024 to research the important contributions of women-identifying artists to the art historical field. Supported by a major gift from the Shah Garg Foundation, the Shah Garg Women Artists Research Fund at BAMPFA will unite the museum's educational mission as a leading university art museum with a history of celebrating the work of women artists and feminist themes in its exhibition program—most notably with its ambitious 2021 survey *New Time: Art and Feminisms in the 21st Century*, its convening role in the nationwide Feminist Art Coalition, and recent retrospectives of Alison Knowles and Amalia Mesa-Bains. Along with their support of this new research initiative, the Shah Garg Foundation has also committed to donate select artworks from *Making Their Mark* to BAMPFA's permanent collection.

"While there have been many survey exhibitions of work by women artists, *Making Their Mark* is unique in its emphasis on cross-generational dialogues between artists who go beyond conventions in artmaking established within a historically patriarchal field," said Norton. "BAMPFA is proud to partner with two distinguished Bay Area art collectors who share our desire to elevate the scholarship and support of women artists past, present, and future."

"The significant investment in the work of women artists by Komal and Guarav is truly inspiring and groundbreaking," said BAMPFA's Executive Director Julie Rodrigues Widholm. "We are so grateful that their vision dovetails with ours at BAMPFA to create public access to such excellent examples of artwork by leading artists of our time, which will generate new scholarship and new art histories for years to come. It is especially fitting that this partnership is with an esteemed UC Berkeley alumna."

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“The Shah Garg Foundation is honored to bring *Making Their Mark* to an institution as brilliant as Berkeley and further educate a younger generation on the accomplishments of women artists,” said Shah. “We are filled with so much excitement at the opportunity to spotlight works that have rarely been seen before to this community. With this iteration of the exhibition and the unveiling of the Shah Garg Women Artists Research Fund, we hope to continue the vital conversation of representation and give way to tangible progress for women.”

### **About Shah Garg Foundation**

The Shah Garg Foundation supports scholarship and public engagement highlighting the achievements and innovations of women artists. Through a wide range of projects and partnerships with educational institutions, arts organizations, and arts leaders, the Foundation works to bring greater recognition to art by women and to rectify the underrepresentation of women in public collections, exhibitions, and art historical narratives. The Foundation offers strategic financial and programmatic support in service to its vision to achieve parity for women artists within the arts ecosystem. [shahgargfoundation.org](http://shahgargfoundation.org)

### **About Komal Shah and Gaurav Garg**

Originally from Ahmedabad, India, Komal Shah migrated to the US in 1991 to study computer science in California. After completing her Masters at Stanford, she obtained an MBA from the Haas School of Business at Berkeley, eventually holding positions in the executive suites of Oracle, Netscape, and Yahoo. In 2008, Shah left the tech industry to focus on philanthropic pursuits. She then began developing the Shah Garg Collection with her husband and tech entrepreneur Gaurav Garg, solidifying a vision for the collection’s emphasis on women artists in 2014. Today, they are focused on amplifying the voices of women artists and artists of color through the Shah Garg Foundation.

### **About BAMPFA**

Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) ignites cultural change for a more inclusive and artistic world. BAMPFA has been uniquely dedicated to art and film since 1970, with international programming that is locally connected and globally relevant. It holds more than 25,000 artworks and 18,000 films and videos in its collection, with particular strengths in

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modern and contemporary art and historical Chinese painting, as well as the world's largest collection of African American quilts. As part of the University of California, Berkeley, BAMPFA is committed to artistic diversity through its robust slate of art exhibitions, film screenings, artist talks, live performances, and educational programs that shed new light on the art of the past and connect our audiences with leading filmmakers and artists of our time. BAMPFA sits on the edge of campus and downtown Berkeley, where it welcomes visitors from across and beyond the Bay Area in a repurposed building designed by Diller Scofidio + Renfro.

### **Exhibition Credits**

*Making Their Mark* is curated by Cecilia Alemani, Donald R. Mullen, Jr. Director & Chief Curator of Highline Art, New York, and Margot Norton, Chief Curator.

### **Image credits**

1. Installation view, artworks left to right: Miriam Schapiro, *Double Rose*, 1978; Merikokeb Berhanu, *Untitled LXXIII*, 2021; Sonia Gomes, *Sol Maior*, 2023; Sonia Gomes, *Artérias (série tela- corpo)*, 2022; Francoise Grossen, *Contact III*, 1977; Elizabeth Murray, *Joanne in the Canyon*, 1990-91.
2. Installation view, artworks left to right: Amy Sillman, *Radiator*, 2021; Simone Leigh, *Stick*, 2019; Charline von Heyl, *Dunesday*, 2016; Charline von Heyl, *Plato's Pharmacy*, 2015; Rachel Jones, *SMIIIIIIIIIEEEE*, 2021.

### **Visitor Information**

#### Hours

Wednesdays through Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

#### Tickets

\$14 general admission

\$12 non-UC Berkeley students, disabled, 65+

FREE BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff; 18 and under; one adult per child 13 and under; and artists in the BAMPFA collection/MATRIX

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### Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94720

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### **Other Upcoming Exhibitions at BAMPFA**

#### **A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration**

*April 13 through September 22, 2024*

*A Movement in Every Direction: Legacies of the Great Migration* illuminates the enduring impacts of the Great Migration through the eyes and work of twelve contemporary artists. Between 1915 and 1970, nearly half of the country's African American population left their homes in the rural South. Between 1940 and 1970, the Bay Area's own Black American population increased by nearly 300,000. The Great Migration transformed the economic, cultural, social, political, and ecological makeup of the United States and altered nearly every aspect of Black life and culture. By exploring very personal and at times difficult histories, the artists consider how reverberations from the Great Migration continue to affect their lives and the lives of many Black Americans. *A Movement in Every Direction* reveals lesser-known stories of this unprecedented phenomenon. It honors the paths, decisions, and sacrifices of ancestors; their pursuit of their hopes and dreams; and the brighter tomorrows they imagined for themselves and their loved ones.

#### **Fifty-Fourth Annual UC Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Exhibition**

*May 1 through July 21, 2024*

For over half a century, BAMPFA and the UC Berkeley Department of Art Practice have collaborated to present an exhibition of works by Master of Fine Arts graduates. The exhibition celebrates new bodies of work developed by each artist that represents the culmination of two-years of study. This year's exhibition includes the work of Salimatu Amabebe, Anamaya Farthing-Kohl, Valencia James, and Nivedita Madigubba.

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**Art Wall: Lauren Rose D'Amato**

*August 7 through December 15, 2024*

Lauren Rose D'Amato (b. 1991, Whittier, CA) is a second-generation sign painter and pinstriper. Her abstract compositions celebrate this personal lineage and the ingenuity of Latinx and working-class communities. For her first museum presentation, she will create an Art Wall commission based on historic hand-painted signs in San Francisco to memorialize these often-overlooked emblems of community and artistic labor. By recontextualizing these signs and the techniques they embody, D'Amato questions the boundary between hand- and machine-made work, while establishing an art history that is inclusive of the care, knowledge, and creativity inherent to lowrider culture and the manual labor that fuels our world.

**MATRIX 285 / Young Joon Kwak**

*August 7 through December 8, 2024*

Young Joon Kwak (b. 1984, Queens, New York) works across sculpture, performance, and video, moving between formal abstraction and bodily figuration to create works that resist the boundaries of representation. *MATRIX 285 / Young Joon Kwak* presents a newly commissioned installation by the Los Angeles-based artist. Using a mixture of resin, metal, and other synthetic and organic materials, Kwak casts the human form—their own and those of friends and collaborators. In these sculptures, the body is fragmented and installed throughout the gallery to suggest a series of movements or gestures within the space. With their distinctive materials and surfaces, Kwak's sculptures draw attention to the details and postures of the body even as they render it in new ways. These transformations and disorientations of the figure invite close and careful acts of looking. Kwak's sculptures demonstrate the complex ways that we see and recognize one another and prompt an imagining of new ways of being and belonging.

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## **To Exalt the Ephemeral: The (Im)permanent Collection**

*August 14, 2024 through July 6, 2025*

*To Exalt the Ephemeral: The (Im)permanent Collection* draws from BAMPFA's art and film collections to explore how museums collect, care for, and amplify the work of artists who celebrate ideas of impermanence and cycles of decay and regeneration. The exhibition is inspired by the rich history of experimentation, performance, and non-object-based artistic practices in BAMPFA's exhibition program, as well as the many conceptual projects, scores, ephemera, and works with alternative materials in the museum's collections. The exhibition explores how institutions can embrace the work of artists who not only acknowledge, but also exalt the inevitability of impermanence, creating artworks with organic and non-archival materials and without the intention for them to last forever. *To Exalt the Ephemeral* provides an opportunity to showcase key histories and works in the collection by artists across generations and disciplines including Nayland Blake, Stanley Brouwn, James Lee Byars, Theresa Hak Kyung Cha, Sarah Charlesworth, Bruce Conner, Imogen Cunningham, Tacita Dean, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Hans Haacke, Eva Hesse, Sister Corita Kent, Paul Kos, Zoe Leonard, Chiura Obata, Silke Otto-Knapp, Estefania Puerta, Rosie Lee Tompkins, Cecilia Vicuña, Andy Warhol, Martin Wong, and many others.

**For more information, contact Media Relations Manager A.J. Fox**

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