

EXHIBITION

California Current: Art and Histories from the Bay Area

October 29, 2026–October 23, 2028



FREIDENRICH FAMILY GALLERY (221)

How does a community stay rooted in a region that's constantly changing? *California Current* invites you to consider this question and others through its more than 60 works — many on view for the first time — that explore the interplay between Bay Area history, art, and artists over the past century.

Titled after the major cold-water current that runs the length of the West Coast of North America, *California Current* brings together paintings, sculptures, works on paper, photographs, and time-based media by Bay Area artists from the twentieth century to the present. The exhibition traces a series of interconnected currents — ecological, infrastructural, technological, personal, creative, and political — that have shaped both artistic production and everyday life in Northern California.

Arranged thematically across time and media, *California Current* places historical works in conversation with contemporary ones, emphasizing both continuity and change. Together, they ask: What has drawn so many people to this region? What has allowed communities and creative practices to take root here? And what continues to keep so many of us — despite the Bay Area's contradictions, pressures, and constant reinvention — deeply connected to this place? Presented as part of the Further Triennial, this exhibition features works by artists Pacita Abad, Saif Azzuz (Libyan-Yurok), Robert Bechtle, Bernice Bing, Kota Ezawa, L. Frank (Tongva, Rarámuri), Lynn Hershman Leeson, Mildred Howard, Amalia Mesa-Bains, Chiura Obata, among others.

The exhibition is curated by: Aleesa Pitchamarn Alexander, PhD, Robert M. and Ruth L. Halperin Associate Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art and Co-Director of the Asian American Art Initiative, Maggie Dethloff, PhD, Assistant Curator of Photography and New Media, Joanna García Cherán (P'urépecha), Phyllis Wattis Assistant Curator of Native American Art, and Jorge Eduardo Sibaja, former Curatorial Assistant.

California Current: Art and Histories of the Bay Area provided by Sally Randel and Paul Fearer, and Pamela and David Hornik. Generous support provided by Jonathan Burgstone. Sustained support is generously provided by the Kazak Acquisitions and Exhibitions Support Fund, the Elizabeth K. Raymond Fund for Photography, and the Halperin Exhibitions Fund.

Image credits: Binh Danh (American, born in Vietnam, 1977). *Lower Yosemite Fall*, 2014. Daguerreotype. 11 1/4 x 9 1/4 in. Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, The Anonymous B Acquisition Fund, 2021.141. © Binh Danh • Bernice Bing (American, 1936–1998). *Blue Mountain No. 4*, 1966. Oil and acrylic on canvas, 75 x 68 1/8 in. Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University gift of Alexa Young. Funding for the conservation of this artwork was generously provided through a grant from the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, 2020.14. © Alexa Young