



Bird, Nest, Nature

July 12 – October 18, 2020

Walnut Creek, CA - Bedford Gallery is thrilled to reopen to the public on July 12, 2020 with our juried and invitational exhibition [*Bird, Nest, Nature*](#). Following guidelines outlined by Contra Costa Health Services, indoor museums, including our gallery, can reopen as of July 1. The health and safety of our visitors is our top priority; please read our new safety procedures below or visit bedfordgallery.org/about/visiting to learn more.

Bird, Nest, Nature, juried by Jeffrey De Blois, Assistant Curator, ICA Boston and Rebecca Lowery, Assistant Curator, MOCA Los Angeles, includes over 150 local, national and international artists inspired by the exquisite beauty of creatures of flight.

Birds have long captured the attention of humankind, the earliest evidence of which can be found in cave drawings that reflect all that we cherish in nature from flora to fauna. Remarkably, during quarantine, birdwatching has soared in popularity across the globe. With limitations on human movement, and a slowed rhythm of life, many have shifted their attention to the mesmerizing creatures just beyond their windowsill.

As curator Emilee Enders states, “Birds, in all manner, have been incorporated into artworks and compositions for hundreds of years and still inspire contemporary artists today. With exquisite coloring, stunning tufts of feathers, distinctive silhouettes and graceful flight patterns, birds entice us to look up and marvel. Our interest endures from the indomitable and historic artist John James Audubon to contemporary artists such as those featured in *Bird, Nest, Nature*.”

For many of the artists in this exhibition, rendering birds is an opportunity to record, identify, and educate viewers about the majesty of these species. Such is the case with renowned artist Isabella Kirkland, whose hyper-realistic style harkens back to the Old Masters. Her intricate paintings serve as a visual archive of extinct and at-risk species, and are built to stand the test of time.

Other artists in the exhibition utilize birds as a metaphorical tool to speak about the human condition and the natural world. This can be seen in the work of acclaimed artist Kiki Smith, whose Jacquard tapestry, *Guide*, recalls mythological themes and the underlying spiritual connection between humans and nature.

Many of the artists in *Bird, Nest, Nature* explore decorative depictions of flora and fauna. Artist Jennifer Orkin Lewis, who goes by the moniker August Wren, is known for her daily sketchbook practice and her ornamental, playful style which reflects the beauty that exists in everyday life. By integrating ornate elements into their artwork, artists such as Orkin Lewis engage in a visual rhetoric of power and majesty in the representation of birds. Thus, the artist



elevates the stature of their subject matter, which are all too often taken for granted.

What all of the artists in *Bird, Nest, Nature* share is a profound respect for birds and the impact these unique species have on our lives. With over 180 artworks, in a diverse wingspan of mediums—including painting, sculpture, book arts, mosaic, glass, wood and more—*Bird, Nest, Nature* presents a thorough examination of our feathered friends.

Bedford Gallery sees *Bird, Nest, Nature* as an opportunity to help inform and inspire our audience, as well as heighten their sense of wonder and connectivity to the natural world. We are living in new, unsettling times and it is Bedford Gallery's true hope that this exhibition will relieve stress and encourage patrons to notice the smaller, quieter things in life. Perhaps when visitors return home, they'll pay closer attention to the beautiful birds that fly right by their window.

Participating Artists:

Peter Adamyan, Matt Adrian, Sophia Allison, Suzanne Anderson-Carey, Aidin Andrews, Diane Andrews Hall, Gale Antokal, Jennifer Bain, Aimee Baldwin, Evan Barbour, Kate Barrengos, Kristine Beier, Linda Belden, Lucrezia Bieler, Jan Blythe, Emma Bolton, Karen Bondarchuk, Tiffany Bozic, Beka Brayer, William Broder, Donna Brown, Debra Broz, Jamie Burnside, Gerardo Candelario, John Casey, Karen Clark, Julie Clements, Joshua Coffy, Sharon Constant, Catherine Courtenaye, Sabra Crockett, Bronle Crosby, Tony Dagradi, Laurie Davenport, Deborah Davidson, Dana DeKalb, Alexander Diaz, Jennifer Downey, Melissa Eder, Donald Farnsworth, Julia Feldman, t.w.five, Kat Flyn, Judy Fong, Kevin Ford, Kath Frajbis, Annelise Freund, Jason Frost, Kilian Garvey, Ruth Geos, Sheila Ghidini, Bushra Gill, Carol Gill-Briiton, Chet Glaze, Alicia Goode, Daniel Graxton, Saira Grube, Kristen Haskell, Larry Hatfield, Karen Hill, Judy Hirabayashi, Dianne Hoffman, Ann Hollingsworth, Ann Holsberry, Linda Huffman, Angela F. Hunkler, Maggie Hurley, Thomas Jackson, Cynthia Jensen, Barbara Johansen Newman, Sharon Kain, Alexis Kandra, Christina Keith, Betsy Kendall, R. J. Kern, Jon Kerpel, Katie Kindelan, Isabella Kirkland, Christine Kirouac, Kristin Kwan, Maureen Langenbach, Bernadette Larimer, Debra LaRocque, Martin Lasack, Carrie Lederer, Ellen Little, Bachrun LoMele, Jeffrey Long, Maggie Mackinlay, Kent Manske, Kara Maria, Traci Martin, Catherine McCargar, Lisa McCutcheon, Lisa McElroy, Ally Mckay, Stephanie Metz, Nancy Mintz, Crystal Moody, Ally Morgan, Angela Moulton, Kat Mulkey, Natalie Nelson, Julia Nelson-Gal, José Nuñez, Asaki Oda, Patricia Oji, Catie O'Leary, Mary O'Malley, Jennifer Orkin Lewis, Ruth Owens, Rebecca Palmer, Krupa Paranjape, Nick Pedersen, Michael Pedroni, Stan Peterson, Irene Raspollini, Arline Reimann, David Reyes, Juan Rodriguez, Jane Rosen, Amy Ross, Susan Routledge, Catherine Ryan, William Salit, Bill Samios, Susana Sanchez, Stacey Schneider, Kest Schwartzman, Maja Sereda, James Shefik, Keyvan Shovir, Karen Sjoholm, Kiki Smith, Sylvia Solochek Walters, Wendy Sparks, and Jeff Torquemada, Chandana Srinath, Melissa Stephens, Lorna Stevens, Netsanet Tesfay, Michele Théberge, Lex Thompson,



Andie Thrans, David Tomb, Anna Valdez, Lucie Van der Elst, Jeanie Wakeland, Emily Wamsley, Beverly West Leach, Rosario Weston, Stephen Whisler, Natalia Wilkins Tyler, Jennifer Wolpert, Dianne Yudelson and Gail Zavala.

General Information

Location: Inside the Leshner Center for the Arts at 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, four blocks south of the Walnut Creek BART station.

Telephone: (925) 295-1417

Email: gallerinfo@bedfordgallery.org

Website: www.bedfordgallery.org

Admission: General \$5; Youth (13-17) \$3; Children 12 and under, free; Free for Bg Members. Visitors must sign up for an entry time online prior to visiting the gallery. Visitors arriving without a pre-purchased ticket (special instructions for members available) will not be admitted to the gallery. More information on how to purchase an advanced ticket is coming soon.

Hours: Tuesday through Sunday, Noon to 5:00 pm. The gallery is closed on Mondays. Beginning July 23, Thursdays and Sundays from 12 – 1 pm are reserved for visitors 50+ until further notice.

Bedford Gallery receives funding from **Leshner Foundation** and **Diablo Regional Arts Association**. All school tours and receptions are sponsored by **DRAA**. Media sponsor: **Diablo Magazine**.

Healthy and Safety Procedures

We have developed new visiting procedures based on the recommended guidelines of the CDC and state and local government officials. We will carefully and continually monitor the efficacy of these guidelines in real time and make further adjustments as needed.

Please review the following safety protocols prior to visiting the gallery:

- The first week of our reopening, July 12 - 19, is reserved for participating artists, gallery volunteers and members only. Sign up to become a member [here](#).
- Advanced ticket purchasing is required. Visitors must sign up for an entry time online prior to visiting the gallery. Visitors arriving without a pre-purchased ticket (special instructions for members available) will not be admitted to the gallery. **More information on how to purchase an advanced ticket is coming soon!**
- Protective face masks for visitors and staff are required while at the gallery. Visitors under two years old are not required to wear masks, but it is highly encouraged.
- No cash transactions will be conducted until further notice. Any transaction that cannot be made in advance e.g. merchandise sales, must be made using a credit card.
- Starting July 23, Thursdays and Sundays from 12 - 1 pm are reserved for visitors 50 years and older.





- Daily wellness checks and temperature screenings will be conducted for staff. Visitors will be screened at the Leshar Center entrance before entering the building/gallery.
- Gallery admission is limited to 12 visitors at a time.
- Gallery staff will enforce physical distancing measures (6 ft.) inside the gallery. There will be floor markers at regular intervals to help visitors keep a safe distance.
- Strict hand washing procedures have been implemented for staff. We strongly encourage visitors to wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds before entering the gallery.
- Staff has instituted a regular cleaning schedule for disinfecting the front desk, doors and other high touch areas. As always, the gallery doors will remain open during business hours. Please refrain from touching any unnecessary surfaces and remind younger visitors of this safety measure.
- We have a dedicated custodial team to clean and sanitize the Leshar Center building.
- Hand sanitizer is readily available.
- A soft barrier has been installed at the front desk.

The latest updates on safety protocols can be found at bedfordgallery.org/about/visiting.

Image Credits:

Melissa Eder, *Tchotchke Portraits Series- Birds*, 2017, digital print on metallic paper, 20 x 20 inches; Alexis Kandra, *Gyr Falcons*, 2019, oil and metal foil on panel, 36 x 24 inches; Isabella Kirkland, *Emergent*, 2009, oil on canvas over panel, 60 x 48 inches, Courtesy of the artist and Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, CA; Jennifer Orkin Lewis, *Moody Birds*, 2019, acryla gouache on paper, 12 x 16.25 inches; Peter Adamyan, *California Condor*, 2018, oil paint and wood assemblage, 11.75 x 13.5 inches; Kiki Smith, *Guide*, 2013, jacquard tapestry, 116 x 75 inches, courtesy of Magnolia Editions, Oakland, CA; Mary O'Malley, *Mini Menagerie #3*, 2020, gouache and gold ink on watercolor paper, 20 x 16 inches, courtesy of the artist and 13 Forest Gallery, Arlington, MA; Anna Valdez, *Parrot and Ocelot Pelt*, 2020, oil on paper 51 x 48 inches; Aimee Baldwin, *Scarlet Ibis*, 2011, hand cut and tinted crêpe-paper feathers, 13 x 10 x 19 inches; David Tomb, *Aplomado Falcon*, 2010, mixed media on paper, 84.5 x 31 x 3 inches; Kristin Kwan, *Dodo*, 2020, oil on panel, 12 inches diameter; Tiffany Bozic, *Curiosity*, 2019, acrylic on maple panel, 24 x 24 inches; Kristine Beier, *Mother Earth Bird (4)*, 2019, pen and ink, colored pencil on paper, 13.75 x 15 inches; Bachrun LoMele, *Updraft*, 2020, silkscreen print, 12 x 22 inches, edition 1 of 26.