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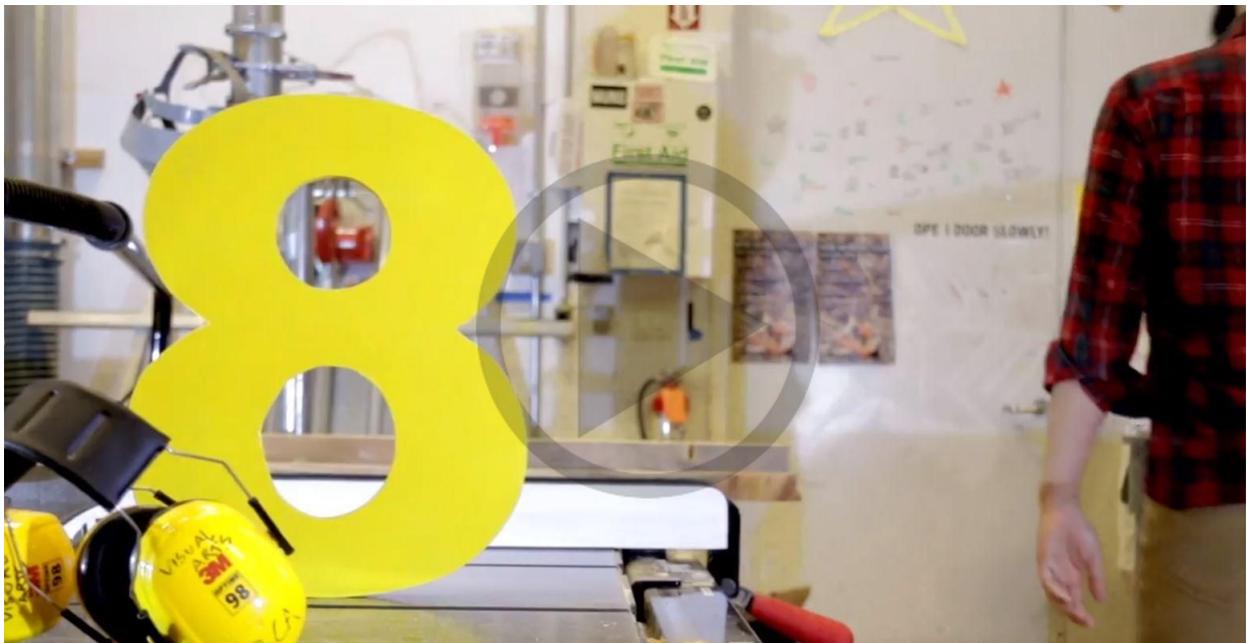
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[Press Kit](#)

YBCA Announces the 25 Artists, Architects, and Designers in *Bay Area Now*, Its Signature Triennial

***Bay Area Now 8* includes the work of architects and designers for the first time**

The exhibition is a key component of YBCA's 25th anniversary



SAN FRANCISCO - (June 5, 2018) -[Yerba Buena Center for the Arts \(YBCA\)](#)

revealed today the **25 Bay Area artists, architects, and designers** selected for its signature triennial, [Bay Area Now 8](#), the only survey exhibition of its kind in Northern California. This fall, **Bay Area Now** returns in its eighth manifestation as a key component of YBCA's 25th anniversary, showcasing emerging and midcareer practitioners in a broad range of creative practices, including painting, photography, ceramics, textiles, video installation, and digital media. For the first time in its history, **Bay Area Now** includes architects and designers working at the leading edge of environmental, landscape, and housing design. Organized by YBCA's director of visual arts **Lucía Sanromán** and associate curator of visual arts **Susie Kantor**, with architecture and design research organized by public programs manager **Martin Strickland**, **Bay Area Now 8 opens Friday, September 7, 2018, and runs through March 24, 2019.**

From fall 2017 through spring 2018, Sanromán, Kantor, and Strickland visited numerous artists' studios and architecture and design offices. The picture that emerged—of both the region and the artists working and thriving here—is of a resilient Bay Area, where humor and care come together with intimate reflections on individual and personal histories, and where bodies and geographies propose a fluid understanding of race, gender, and nature. Using materials as surrogates for larger political concerns, the featured participants points to an in-between space that, by rejecting rigid dichotomies, suggests a delicate optimism.

“At a time when we are under an endless barrage of bad and fake news, and when progressive policies are attacked and people of all kinds are racially profiled and criminalized, artists remind us that the creative act includes imagining other possible futures,” remarks **Sanromán**. “Over the months of studio visits and research that fed our process, we have been struck by the creative practitioners' conviction and commitment to *making* as a way to practice the politics of care. For this reason, it became important to expand the lens of our research to architects and designers, who define and build the cities we inhabit. Many artists and architects working in the Bay Area today have turned their practices into modes of knowing where the political *is* the personal, and in doing so exercise models of resistance implicated in everyday life.”

The selected *Bay Area Now 8* artists are:

Visual Artists

Sadie Barnette (Oakland) | **David Bayus** (San Francisco) | **Sita Bhaumik** (Oakland) | **Sofía Córdova** (Oakland) | **Caleb Duarte** (Oakland) | **Josh Faught** (San Francisco) | **Nicki Green** (San Francisco) | **Porpentine Charity Heartscape** (Oakland) | **Jamil Hellu** (San Francisco) | **Constance Hockaday** (Oakland/LA) | **Rhonda Holberton** (Oakland) | **Carrie Hott** (Oakland) | **Sahar Khoury** (Oakland) | **Charlie Leese** (San Francisco) | **Woody De Othello** (Richmond) | **Marcela Pardo Ariza** (San Francisco) | **Taravat Talepasand** (San Francisco) | **Cate White** (Oakland) | **Andrew Wilson** (Oakland)

Architects and Designers

Darell Fields (Berkeley) | **Hyphae Design Laboratory** (Oakland) | **modern** (Berkeley) | **Nemestudio** (Emeryville) | **Stamen Design** (San Francisco) | **Urban Works Agency** (San Francisco)

Adds Kantor, “While the exhibition is not focused around any one theme or curatorial narrative, we did find that the artists we chose had a common concern with identity, the body, and domesticity. From the research-based work of **Andrew Wilson**, **Sadie Barnette**, or **Carrie Hott**—all drawing from vastly different narratives to create compelling installations—to the textiles and ceramics (respectively) of **Josh Faught** and **Nicki Green**, who examine queer identity, to the figurative painting of **Taravat Talepasand** and **Cate White**, the artists in this exhibition are finding joy and optimism in these fraught times.”

BAN8 coincides with YBCA’s upcoming 25th anniversary, and exemplifies the center’s commitment to the region’s incredibly diverse creative practitioners. In a celebration of the artists and curators who took part in previous editions, and of where YBCA is now as an institution, the exhibition research includes a look back into the history of *Bay Area Now*, featuring interviews with previous curators and participating artists.

Details about the exhibition and the included works will be announced in summer 2018.

About Bay Area Now

Initiated in 1997, the first *Bay Area Now* aimed to support, celebrate, and acknowledge a new generation of Bay Area artists, with the goal of generating interest and excitement within the Bay Area arts community. The curators sought inclusivity—they made an active commitment to exhibiting women and artists of color, and looked primarily at emerging artists. By the second iteration (1999–2000), the mandate—as detailed by then-chief curator Renny Pritikin in the introduction to the exhibition booklet—became more specific: “The institution seeks to support local artists, and to augment that support by establishing a baseline for serious consideration of new experimental art in the San Francisco Bay Area.” In its eighth edition, *Bay Area Now* returns to this simple directive.

About the Curators

Lucía Sanromán joined YBCA as director of visual arts in October 2015. Over the course of her career, she has curated groundbreaking exhibitions throughout the United States, Mexico, and Latin America. Recent projects at YBCA include, among others, *Teddy Cruz and Fonna Forman: Visualizing Citizenship: Seeking a New Public Imagination* (2017) and *Damon Rich & Jae Shin Hector: Space Brainz—Yerba Buena 3000* (2017–18) (both co-organized with Martin Strickland, YBCA exhibitions associate); as well as *Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder* (2017) (co-curated with Susie Kantor, YBCA associate curator), and the current *Futurefarmers: Out of Place, in Place*.

Susie Kantor is the associate curator of visual arts at YBCA. She holds an MA in art history with a focus on seventeenth-century Dutch painting from New York University, Institute of Fine Arts, and a BA in art history and political science from Wellesley College. Her curatorial projects include *Tania Bruguera: Talking to Power / Hablándole al Poder* (2017) (co-curated with Lucía Sanromán, YBCA director of visual arts), *Won Ju Lim: Raycraft Is Dead* (2015), *Kevin Cooley: Golden Prospects* (2015), and *Work in Progress: Investigations South of Market* (2015), and she served as the coordinating curator for the traveling exhibition *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* (2015). Prior to YBCA, she held positions at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, and at Richard L. Feigen & Co., New York.

Martin Strickland is the public programs manager at YBCA. He manages the second-floor gallery exhibition programming and is currently collaborating with Lucía Sanromán on *The City Initiative*, a series of exhibitions and public programs that focus on the urban environment. Prior to YBCA, he worked as the programs assistant at the Arts Research Center, UC Berkeley, as an independent contractor with the San Francisco Arts Commission, and as a community organizer for public health in New Orleans.

YBCA exhibitions are made possible in part by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, Panta Rhea Foundation, American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellows Program, and Meridee Moore and Kevin King. YBCA programs are made possible, in part, by The James Irvine Foundation. Additional funding for YBCA programs: National Endowment for the Arts, Abundance Foundation, Grosvenor, and members of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts is grateful to the City of San Francisco for its ongoing support.

About Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (YBCA) is one of the nation's most innovative contemporary arts centers. Founded in 1993, YBCA's mission is to generate culture that moves people. Through powerful art experiences, thoughtful and provocative content, and deep opportunities for participation, YBCA is committed to creating an inclusive culture that awakens personal and societal transformation. YBCA presents a wide variety of programming year-round, including performing arts, visual arts, film/video, and civic engagement. For tickets and information, call 415.978.ARTS (2787). For more information, visit ybca.org.

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