

ART & EXHIBITS

# Bay Area art spaces back on feet for fall, focusing on the traditionally underrepresented

Tony Bravo | September 8, 2021 Updated: September 17, 2021, 4:20 pm



Joan Mitchell, "The Bridge," 1956.

Photo: Fredriksen Family Art Collection; © Estate of Joan Mitchell; photo: Kris Graves

Notably, many shows are centered around female artists and artists of color, or are curated to highlight themes of otherness and marginalization in communities frequently not represented in art. Few museums and galleries seem interested in “playing it safe” this year and offering the expected. Exhibitions celebrating Carrie Mae Weems, Leonard Cohen, **Joan Mitchell**, Patrick Kelly, Amoako Boafo and Ashley Longshore join notable public installations and murals. And for three nights, the San Francisco Bay will become an LED portrait gallery bringing attention to the international refugee and asylum crisis.



Four outfits from the CE Studio Line made in collaboration with artists Kathy Finn-Gamino, Steven Liu, Mariam Munguia and Ethel Revita, under lead designer Victor Molina's vision with assistance from instructor Pilar Olabarria. Part of the exhibition “Mode Brut” at the Museum of Craft and Design.  
Photo: Courtesy Graham Holoch / © Creativity Explored Licensing LLC

## ‘Mode Brut’



instructor and designer Victor Molina, the Creativity Explored studio artist team (which consists of more than 50 artists) collaborated with community art collective Bonanza, queer advocate and model Ayana “Yanni” Brumfield, and San Francisco fashion brand **Tokyo Gamine** to create ensembles that ask questions about how fashion responds to questions of accessibility, perceived gender roles and identity.

*10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Through Jan. 23. \$10. Museum of Craft and Design, 2569 Third St., S.F. 415-773-0303. [sfmcd.org](http://sfmcd.org)*



Joan Mitchell, “Bracket,” 1989.

Photo: Fisher Collection / San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

## ‘Joan Mitchell’



retrospective, co-organized with the Baltimore Museum of Art, includes more than 80 paintings – with 10 exclusive to this venue – that will show Mitchell’s development from early, cubist-referencing works to the monumental explosions of color, light and gesture that culminate her career.

Well-known abstract expressionist-era works like “The Bridge” and later pieces like her meditations on sunflowers will be featured, along with sketchbooks, drawings and other materials related to her creative process.

*1-8 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday-Monday. Through Jan. 17. \$19-\$25. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St., S.F. 415-357-4000. **[sfmoma.org](http://sfmoma.org)***



Carrie Mae Weems: *Untitled (Playing harmonica)*, 1990-1999. On view at Fraenkel Gallery in “Carrie Mae Weems: Witness.”

Photo: Carrie Mae Weems / Fraenkel Gallery

## ‘Carrie Mae Weems: Witness’

Four decades of Carrie Mae Weems’ work will be explored in a new survey, the artist’s first at Fraenkel Gallery. The show will include iconic works from Weems’ “Family Portraits and

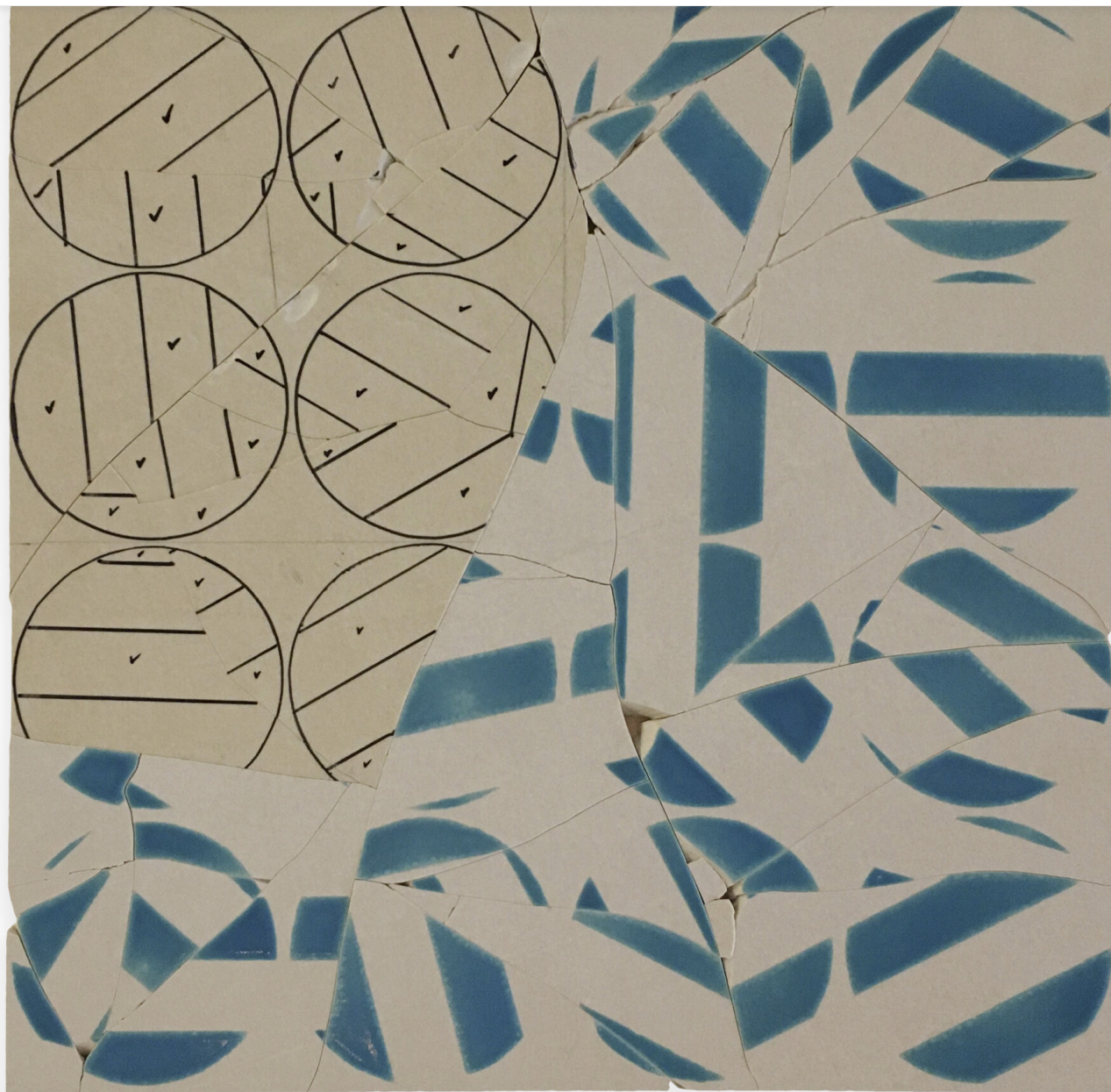


photographed in front of institutions dressed in black with her back the camera.

Also to be featured are video work “People of a Darker Hue” and the archival-image based project “In From Here I Saw What Happened and I Cried.”

*11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Sept. 9-Oct. 23. Free. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary St., S.F. 415-981-2661. **[fraenkelgallery.com](http://fraenkelgallery.com)***





Jim Melchert, “Untitled (Teal),” on view at Gallery 16.  
Photo: Gallery 16

## ‘Jim Melchert: Rethink, Revisit, Reassess, Reenter’

In his 50-plus-year career, Bay Area artist Jim Melchert has been commonly associated with the California ceramic scene of the 1960s and '70s, alongside artists like Ron Nagle, Ken Price and Richard Shaw. Gallery 16's show plans to present a selection of works across



The show's title comes from a quote by the artist: "I like words that start with re: rethink, revisit, reassess, reenter."

*10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Sept. 9-Oct. 31. Free. 501 Third St., S.F. 415-626-7495.  
gallery16.com*



Paul Graham, "Summer (The Harvesters), J.P. Morgan Chase Securities, 277 Park Avenue, 2018."  
Photo: © Paul Graham / Pace Gallery

## 'Paul Graham: The Seasons'

Photographer Paul Graham's series "The Seasons" and "Sightless" will make up his first show on the West Coast since his 2015 solo exhibition at Pier 24.



“Sightless” captures people standing on New York’s 42nd Street with their eyes closed conveying a number of different moods.

11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Noon-5 p.m. Saturday. Sept. 10-Oct. 16. Free. Pace Gallery, 229 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto. 650-561-4076. [www.pacegallery.com](http://www.pacegallery.com)



Maia Cruz Palileo, “Gabi (night),” 2021.  
Photo: Maia Cruz Paileo

## ‘Maia Cruz Palileo: Long Kwento’

Influenced by the oral history of their family’s move to the United States from the Philippines, Maia Cruz Palileo explores issues of identity, history and migration and concepts of time in this show of new paintings and sculpture.

The work was inspired by research Palileo did at the Newberry Library in Chicago, home to one of the largest collections of Filipiniana in the world. Palileo recontextualizes these

Noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Sept. 14-Dec. 4. Free. Wattis Institute for Contemporary Arts, 360 Kansas St., S.F. 415-355-9670. [wattis.org](http://wattis.org)



Installation view of Lawrence Weiner's "Out of Sight."

Photo: Wayne Taylor / Courtesy of the artist, © Lawrence Weiner. Photo: Wayne Taylor.

## 'Out of Sight'

Lawrence Weiner's textual, ground-based mural "Out of Sight" will be presented at three locations in San Francisco this fall: the entrance to the Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, the Exploratorium at Pier 15 and the Minnesota Street Project. The MSP incarnation will be presented in conjunction with the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts and the exhibition "Next to You."

Weiner's work takes the form of a hopscotch pattern containing phrases in English, Mandarin and Spanish. Viewers are encouraged to interact with the mural as they would a



*Beginning Sept. 17. Free. Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture, 2 Marina Blvd. S.F. [fortmason.org](http://fortmason.org); Beginning late September. Free. The Exploratorium, Pier 15, 698 The Embarcadero, S.F. [www.exploratorium.edu](http://www.exploratorium.edu); 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Oct. 16- Jan. 22. Free. Minnesota Street Project atrium, 1275 Minnesota St. S.F. [minnesotastreetproject.com](http://minnesotastreetproject.com)*

*“Next to You”: 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. Through Dec. 4. Free. McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, 1150 25th St., Building B. 415-580-7605. [www.mcevoyarts.org](http://www.mcevoyarts.org)*



Shimon Attie, “Night Watch (Norris with Liberty),” 2018. Originally produced by Moreart.org in New York City.  
Photo: Shimon Attie

## ‘Night Watch’



Attie's piece, which debuted in New York in 2018 during the U.N. General Assembly, consists of a barge with a 20-foot LED screen that displays video portraits of 12 refugees who were granted political asylum in the United States, including members of international LGBTQ communities and people from Colombia, Honduras, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Nigeria, Peru and Russia. At shoreline locations including Fort Mason, Epic Steak, Waterbar restaurant and Warm Water Cove in San Francisco, as well as Brooklyn Basin in Oakland, performances with dancers, musicians and artists will engage with the work, and audiences can view the installation when it docks.

"Night Watch" coincides with the opening of "Here Not Here," a survey show of the artist's work at the Catharine Clark Gallery.

*"Night Watch": 6:15-9 p.m. Sept. 17-19. Free. San Francisco Bay and various locations.*  
***cclarkgallery.com***

*"Here Not Here": 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday. Sept. 18-Oct. 30. Free. 248 Utah St., S.F. 415-399-1439. cclarkgallery.com*



Tabitha Soren's "[usatoday.com/flag-burning-donald-trump-tweet-first-amendment-ken-paulsonn/](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/election/2019/08/14/flag-burning-donald-trump-tweet-first-amendment-ken-paulsonn/4011110002/)" (2019), digital archive print mounted on mirrored plex, 32 x 24 inches.

Photo: Tabitha Soren

## ‘Tabitha Soren: Surface Tension’

Photographer Tabitha Soren's first solo museum exhibition in the Bay Area will look at intersections of technology with culture, politics and human contact.

The show is expected to feature three new installations created especially for the space. An immersive installation focused on themes of resistance includes images from the 2016 protests in Charlotte, N.C.; the first national Women's March; Black Lives Matter protests of 2020; and the siege on the U.S. Capitol in 2021. The multi-channel video and sound installation "Narcissus" will use floor-based prints with mirrored surfaces to create a space of refuge "away from the visual commotion of internet consumption."





Judy Chicago's 2018 painting "Bird on a Wire."

Photo: Courtesy of the artist and Jessica Silverman / Jessica Silverman

## 'Experience Leonard Cohen'

This exhibition exploring the late singer-songwriter consists of a series of solo shows by four artists — George Fok, **Judy Chicago**, Candice Breitz and Marshall Trammell — inspired



George Fox: *Passing Through* is an immersive audiovisual work that celebrates Cohen through a collage of collective memories and concert footage.

“Judy Chicago: Cohanim” looks at the artist’s reactions to specific Cohen songs and lyrics through painting.

“Candice Breitz: I’m Your Man” is a 19-channel video installation that will bring together Cohen fans for a tribute performance.

An in-gallery performance residency by musician and artist Trammell will be an ongoing feature of the exhibition.

*11 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday-Sunday. Sept. 18- Feb. 13. (“Passing Through” and “Cohanim” close Jan. 2). \$16. Contemporary Jewish Museum, 736 Mission St., S.F. 415-655-7888.*

[www.thecjm.org](http://www.thecjm.org)



Conrad Egyir, “A Chapter of Love,” 2021, reproduction of painting on vinyl.  
Photo: Courtesy of the Artist and Jessica Silverman. / Jessica Silverman

## Conrad Egyir, ‘Chapters of Light’ and ‘A Chapter of Love’

Detroit-based Ghanaian artist Conrad Egyir will present a dual-exhibition and facade installation at ICA San Jose. “Chapters of Light” (Oct. 1-Feb. 2) will premiere a new series of monochromatic works where the subjects’ clothing, surroundings and background blend together in a nod to Pop Art along with an interactive portrait room where visitors can build their own scene for a similar self-portrait.

Facade installation “A Chapter of Love” (Oct. 1-September 2022) will contemplate themes of community and child-raising inspired by the artist’s own young life in West Africa.



Artist Ashley Longshore and Saint Joseph's Arts Society founder Ken Fulk.  
Photo: courtesy Saint Joseph / Saint Joseph's Arts Society

## 'Ashley Longshore'

Pop Art sensation Ashley Longshore's solo exhibition is slated to include an exclusive series of the artist's large-scale abstract floral "Monette" paintings as well as her signature glitter-encrusted portraits of feminist and style icons. The show also plans to feature a furniture collaboration with **Saint Joseph's** founder, designer **Ken Fulk**, that will include 12 dining chairs translating Longshore's portraits of iconic women into a "Fulkian" interpretation of the Last Supper.





Bernardino Lanino or Gaudenzio Ferrari, "Head of a Woman," early 16th century.



## Color Into Line: Pastels from the Renaissance to the Present'

This show, mostly culled from Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco holdings, is dedicated to works on paper and spans the Renaissance to present, curated with an emphasis on the technical aspects of working with pastels.

“Color Into Line” will include pieces by Rosalba Carriera, Mary Cassatt, Edgar Degas, John Altoon and Wayne Thiebaud, among others.

*9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Oct. 9-Feb. 13, 2022. \$15-\$30. Legion of Honor Museum, 100 34th Ave., S.F. 415-750-3600. [legionofhonor.famsf.org](http://legionofhonor.famsf.org)*



Jeanne M. Hansen, “Stannous Flouride takes a walk in the Financial District,” 1980.  
Photo: Jeanne M. Hansen



This new photo exhibition focuses on the charged cultural and political scene of the 1980s underground in San Francisco and the intersections of art, activism and punk rock.

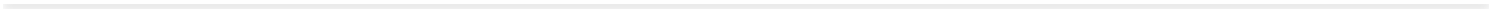
Curated by Jeanne M. Hansen, the show is expected to feature photographs she took as part of the scene. It will showcase venues like Temple Beautiful, Sound of Music, the Farm and I-Beam, and bands including the Looters, No Alternative, Big City, Arkansaw Man, Frightwig, Mutants, Appliances, Patsy Cline and the Memphis G-Strings, and Flamin' Groovies.

Interviews with key players from the scene by renowned author Jonah Raskin will provide additional context.

*10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday- Saturday, noon-5:30 p.m. Sunday. Oct. 9-Jan 23. San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin St., S.F. 415-557-4400. ***sfpl.org****



[Sign In](#)





## ‘Amoako Boafo: Soul of Black Folks’

The first solo museum exhibition by Ghanaian painter **Amoako Boafo**, known for his combination of calculated brushwork with finger strokes as well as his centering of Black joy and subjectivity in his art, is expected to feature more than 20 works specifically exploring Boafo’s practice as a portrait artist.

The exhibition takes its title from civil rights pioneer W.E.B. Du Bois’ book “The Souls of Black Folk.” Du Bois is buried in the Osu neighborhood of the city of Accra in Ghana, where Boafo grew up.

The Museum of the African Diaspora reopens to members Oct. 20 and the general public Oct. 21, with a free Community Day on Oct. 23.

*11 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday; noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Oct. 20-Feb. 27. \$5-10. Museum of the African Diaspora, 685 Mission St., S.F. [www.moadsf.org](http://www.moadsf.org)*



Woman's Ensemble: Coat and Dress, fall/winter 1986; Woman's Dress, fall/winter 1986; Woman's Dress, fall/winter 1988; by Patrick Kelly.  
Photo: Philadelphia Museum of Art

## **‘Patrick Kelly: Runway of Love’**

The American fashion designer, who brought beauty as well as senses of drama and humor to the 1980s, is being celebrated in this retrospective that originated at the Philadelphia Museum of Art.



aesthetic references to his African American heritage (he notably collected and commented on racist memorabilia in his runway collections) and the queer underground in New York were groundbreaking for the era.

*9:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday. Oct. 23-April 24. \$15-\$30. De Young Museum, 50 Hagiwara Tea Garden Drive, S.F. 415-750-3600. [deyoung.famsf.org](http://deyoung.famsf.org)*

A still from the “Async – Volume –” video installation by Zakkubalan, on view at the David Ireland House this fall.

Photo: Zakkubalan / Zakkubalan

## ‘Below the lighthouse is the darkest part of night’

New York-based artist duo Zakkubalan (Neo S. Sora and Albert Tholen) present a multimedia exhibition of old and new work created in conversation with the David Ireland House. The show will also feature their 2017 collaboration with composer Ryuichi Sakamoto “Async – Volume –” a 24-channel video installation that explores Sakamoto’s creative process. The show is Zakkubalan’s first solo exhibition in the U.S.



---

500 Capp St., S.F. 415-872-9240. [500cappstreet.org](http://500cappstreet.org)

Edith Heath portrait at the wheel, c. 1970. Gelatin Silver Print.  
Photo: Oakland Museum of California

## ‘Edith Heath: A Life in Clay’

The legendary Bay Area ceramist Edith Heath changed the way many Americans felt about their tableware in the 20th century, taking handcrafted pieces from special occasion to everyday use and helping break away from the visual uniformity of the 1950s and '60s. The co-founder of Heath Ceramics used locally sourced California clay in her work, a major departure at the time, and embraced an earthiness in design (especially the company's legendary tile work) that helped make the company an institution.

---

*11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Nov. 13-June 26. \$7-\$21; free for children age 12 and younger. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. [museumca.org](http://museumca.org)*

Wardell Milan, "2014/2020 202 Bay St., Staten Island," 2020.

Photo: © Wardell Milan / Fraenkel Gallery, S.F., and David Nolan Gallery, New York.

## **‘Our whole, unruly selves’**

This new exhibition, drawing primarily from the San Jose Museum of Art’s permanent collection, will explore the changing stakes of figurative representation in contemporary art. The show spans artists identified with Bay Area Figuration from the 1960s to the present, with work by Benny Andrews, Axis Dance Company, Steffani Jemison, Woody De Othello and others.

With many featured artists coming from marginalized communities, there will also be an exploration of how portraiture conventions are being subverted by artists from communities not traditionally represented in art.

Artist Aislinn Thomas is also expected to collaborate with San Jose Chicax theater company Teatro Vision to create a sound work of experimental visual descriptions.





Related articles

S.F.’s Museum of the African Diaspora announces October reopening

Has culture finally caught up to artist Judy Chicago?

Oakland Museum reopens, debuts refreshed garden project by Mark Cavagnero and Walter Hood

‘New Time’ at BAMPFA strives to show urgency and diversity of feminist art in the 21st century



Tony Bravo

Tony Bravo is a San Francisco Chronicle staff writer. Email: [tbravo@sfchronicle.com](mailto:tbravo@sfchronicle.com) Twitter: [@TonyBravoSF](https://twitter.com/TonyBravoSF)

Related Events

SEP  
18

DATEBOOK PICK

OCT THROUGH JAN  
21<sup>10</sup>

DATEBOOK

OCT  
21



Sign In

# Experience Leonard

📍 The Contemporary Jewish ... \$16

# Disney Art & Exhibits

📍 Walt Disney Family Mu... \$5 - \$15

# to

Art & E

📍 Albany Bult

You must be signed in to comment

[Sign In](#)

## Conversation

Commenting on this article has ended

Powered by  OpenWeb

[OpenWeb's Terms](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Feedback](#)

FOLLOW US



SFChronicle	Offers	Company	Do Not Sell My Personal Information
SFGATE	Store	Careers	
Datebook	e-edition	Advertising	
GreenState	Apps	Customer Service	
	Archives	Contact Newsroom	
	Subscriber Services	FAQs	
		Privacy Notice / Notice At Collection	
		Your California Privacy Rights	
		Interest-Based Ads	
		Terms of Use	