OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA
2016 EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

UPCOMING

**Altered State: Marijuana in California**
**April 16–September 25, 2016**
In Spring 2016, OMCA presents the first-ever museum exhibition to focus on marijuana in California today. Designed as a catalyst for conversation and reflection around the marijuana plant, its uses, evolving public attitudes, and the complex policy and social issues surrounding it, the exhibition explores the many ways that people consider cannabis, presented through the perspectives, knowledge, and opinions of a diverse range of community members and groups. With marijuana increasingly in the news, and California on the verge of making important decisions around marijuana that will impact people living in this state, the exhibition provides a community space where people can come together to learn, question, discuss, and add their voice to the different points of views surrounding this complex and evolving topic.

**Open Engagement—POWER**
**April 29–May 1, 2016**
Open Engagement 2016—POWER will take at the Oakland Museum of California and additional sites throughout the Bay Area. An annual, three-day artist-led conference dedicated to expanding the dialogue around socially engaged art, the conference will explore the centralized theme of POWER, guided by the curatorial vision of OMCA's Senior Curator of Art René de Guzman, and will feature keynote speakers Angela Davis and Suzanne Lacy. Founded in 2007, Open Engagement has evolved into an unparalleled hub for practitioners and audiences of socially engaged art to assemble. It is the only conference on this subject of this scale that operates on an inclusive open call model that supports emerging and established artists and collaborates closely with national institutions to further the networks of support for socially engaged art. Open Engagement—POWER (2016) in partnership with the Oakland Museum of California and the California College of Arts (CCA) marks the first year of a three-year cycle, followed by Chicago (2017—JUSTICE) in partnership with University of Illinois Chicago, and New York (2018—SUSTAINABILITY) in partnership with the Queens Museum.

**Oakland, I want you to know...**
**July 27, 2016—January 1, 2017**
Opening in July 2016 in OMCA's Gallery of California Art, *Oakland, I want you to know...* is a new exhibition that explores current and accelerating social, economic, and demographic changes in West Oakland as seen through the eyes of the community. The exhibition will feature artworks co-created by artists and West Oakland residents, and will invite Museum
visitors to share their thoughts about what's happening in Oakland right now. The exhibition asks people to answer the question “How can new and longtime residents of Oakland play an active role in shaping the changing identity of our city while preserving the aspects of what make West Oakland unique?” In this artist and community-driven exhibition co-created with artist Chris Treggiari and OMCA Curator of Public Practice Evelyn Orantes, visitors will encounter video installations, images, and community projects contained in environments inspired by some of the iconic structures found in West Oakland like a Victorian home, a contemporary loft, and the now-shuttered Ester’s Orbit Room bar and blues hall. Within each space, visitors will be introduced to different key conversations from the neighborhood through the voices of the people, institutions, and businesses that call West Oakland home.

**All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50**

*October 8, 2016–February 12, 2017*

In Fall 2016, the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) will present a major exhibition to coincide with the 50th anniversary the Black Panther Party’s founding on October 15, 1966, in Oakland. Presenting a contemporary view of the Black Panther Party’s legacy from multiple perspectives, *All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50* will show how the Party continues to inspire culture, social activism, and community empowerment efforts locally, nationally, and internationally. Designed to create empathy and emotional resonance, the exhibition explores the Black Panther Party as a necessary, heroic, and human response to societal needs. Informed by insights from former Black Panthers, artists, scholars, and community members, the exhibition will feature art installations, historical photographs and media presentations, artifacts, and contemporary works of art.

**Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing**

*November 12, 2016–April 23, 2017*

Through the lens of her camera, Dorothea Lange documented 20th century life with riveting, intimate photographs that showed the major issues of the times. The emotional impact of her works continues to resonate with millions and illustrates the power of photography as a form of social activism. From documenting the plight of Dust Bowl migrants during the Great Depression to magnifying the grim conditions of incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II, Lange’s photographs demonstrate how empathy and compassion, focused through art, can trigger political action. *Dorothea Lange: Politics of Seeing* presents approximately 100 photographs to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the artist’s gift of her personal archive to the Oakland Museum of California. Drawing upon vintage prints, unedited proof sheets, personal memorabilia, and historic objects, this exhibition takes a unique approach to a beloved American photographer by examining how her artistry and advocacy swayed minds and prompted significant change in this nation’s history.

**ON VIEW**

**UNEARTHED: Found + Made**

*Through April 24, 2016*

In a unique mash-up, *UNEARTHED: Found + Made* intermixes work by a contemporary artist with the creative practice of amateur local clubs. Oakland-born, Los Angeles-based artist
Jedediah Caesar imitates geological processes in making his sculptures, sometimes encasing found objects from the urban environment in clear or colored resin. The California Suiseki Society and the San Francisco Suiseki Kai practice a Japanese tradition of carefully collecting, appreciating, and displaying stones on carved wooden platforms. Placing Caesar’s sculpture alongside suiseki by members of these clubs highlights a similarity in process they share: each collects loose material from the landscape, reworking and presenting it for shared appreciation. Highlighting the mashing-up of two distinct types of activity and the literal act of taking things from the earth, UNEARTHED: Found + Made features the comparisons between these two practices to generate conversation and mutual understanding across communities and creative ways of working.

Bees: Tiny Insect: Big Impact
Through January 15, 2017
This exhibition in OMCA’s Gallery of California Natural Sciences takes a look at the wildly diverse and intricate world of one of the most important creatures to human agriculture and the natural environment. Through family-friendly experiences, hands-on activities, and media, Bees: Tiny Insect, Big Impact touches on topics of honeybees and Bay Area beekeeping, the diversity of California native bee species, citizen science projects, and the similarities between bees and humans. Visitors will discover real bee specimens under a microscope, crawl through a human-sized beehive, and try on a beekeeper suit. In an immersive gallery environment, visitors can explore the causes of bee population decline, learn about the significance of bees to California’s economy and ecosystems, and discover how simple but powerful actions by Californians can help bees to survive in a changing world.

ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA
The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) brings together collections of art, history, and natural science under one roof to tell the extraordinary stories of California and its people. OMCA’s groundbreaking exhibits tell the many stories that comprise California with many voices, often drawing on first-person accounts by people who have shaped California’s cultural heritage. Visitors are invited to actively participate in the Museum as they learn about the natural, artistic, and social forces that affect the state and investigate their own role in both its history and its future. With more than 1.9 million objects, OMCA is a leading cultural institution of the Bay Area and a resource for the research and understanding of California’s dynamic cultural and environmental heritage.

VISITOR INFORMATION
The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) is at 1000 Oak Street, at 10th Street, in Oakland. Museum admission is $15.95 general; $10.95 seniors and students with valid ID, $6.95 youth ages 9 to 17, and free for Members and children 8 and under. OMCA offers onsite underground parking and is conveniently located one block from the Lake Merritt BART station, on the corner of 10th Street and Oak Street. The accessibility ramp is located at the 1000 Oak Street main entrance to the Museum. museumca.org

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