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**OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ANNOUNCES  
NEW EXHIBITION: MILDRED HOWARD'S *TAP:*  
*INVESTIGATION OF MEMORY***

A Powerful, Multimedia Installation That Offers a Rich Expression of  
African American Culture in the Bay Area

*Exhibition on view February 2 – September 1, 2019 in OMCA's Gallery of  
California Art*

(OAKLAND, CA) January 31, 2019—The **Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)** will open a new exhibition in its Gallery of California Art beginning February 2, 2019: [Mildred Howard's \*TAP: Investigations of Memory\*](#). Created by a Bay Area artist and activist, this exhibition features a **powerful multimedia installation** that examines themes of **identity, church culture, gentrification, dance, activism**, and more.

Born to activist parents, Howard's family lineage and community inform much of her work. Part of OMCA's Collection, this major artwork incorporates an **antique shoe-shine stand from Oakland's historic California Hotel**, once a cultural center for the Black community, as the **altar-like centerpiece**, alongside **white shoes and metal shoe taps** arranged in a pattern covering the gallery floor. Symbolizing memories from her past and tap dance's influence on her life, learn how Howard's work has helped **shape the narrative of activism in the Bay Area** and continues to inspire artists today.

"Mildred Howard created this groundbreaking installation thirty years ago and OMCA is honored to have this important artwork back on public view," said Curator of Art Carin Adams on the new exhibition.

Mildred Howard's *TAP: Investigation of Memory* will be on view in OMCA's Gallery of California Art from February 2 – September 1, 2019.

**UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS**

**Black Power**

***Gallery of California History***

***On View Beginning February 8, 2019***

Uncover the history of the Black Power movements in California with a compelling addition to the Gallery of California History. In response to the widely-popular 2016 exhibition *All Power to the People: Black Panthers at 50*, this new installation will illustrate the creative ways black anti-racist activists in California supported their communities and challenged the U.S. government. Focusing on the example of the

Black Panther Party, *Black Power* will bring to light the tensions between a culturally and socially progressive California and examples of economic racism and oppression in the state. This moment in California history will be represented through historic photographs, provocative objects, iconic posters, paintings and interactive prompts that encourage visitors to take action out in the world. Learn more about the Bay Area role in this national story, and the impacts this history continues to have today.

### **Queer California: Untold Stories**

#### **Great Hall**

**April 13–August 11, 2019**

In Spring 2019, the Oakland Museum of California will present a major exhibition exploring California's LGBTQ+ history and culture. Going beyond mainstream narratives, *Queer California: Untold Stories* will deepen and expand our understanding of this history through a multifaceted exhibition. Visitors will experience powerful examples of social activism through contemporary artwork and historical materials and view rarely-seen artifacts, archival documents, photographs, costumes, and ephemera such as zines, stickers, and flyers. The exhibition aligns important milestones in LGBTQ+ culture with lesser-known stories, focusing on a diversity of queer identities, civil rights, and resistance to oppression.

Visitors themselves can share the events and places in California that have impacted their personal experiences, thereby creating a participatory in-gallery display that maps queer sites and reflects the range of the state's queer history and expression. *Queer California* presents a future of possibility; through themes of memory, mourning, anger, desire, and hope, this exhibition draws on histories of struggle for self-determination to help us imagine a more inclusive future. There is a \$4 charge for this special exhibition in addition to regular Museum admission.

### **Pushing West: The Photography of Andrew J. Russell**

#### **Gallery of California Art**

**May 4–September 1, 2019**

Travel back in time through Andrew J. Russell's epic photography of the Transcontinental Railroad's western expansion, completed 150 years ago in 1869. Though commissioned to document the railroad and its successful development, Russell's photography reveals the tensions between the economic and technological advances and the Railroad's significant impact on western lands and Native peoples. His powerful imagery highlights the majesty of the landscape with locomotive engines set amongst vast plains and colossal mountain ranges, captured through Russell's remarkable technique using the collodion photographic process in remote locations.

In this intimate exhibition, visitors will view rare vintage and digital prints, powerful landscape and 3D images, and original collodion negatives, as well as memorabilia, ephemera, and a video demonstrating the collodion process. Learn about Russell's legacy as one of the most important photographers of the 19th century in this inspiring presentation of one of the most historic and controversial moments in American history.

### **No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man**

#### **Great Hall**

**October 12, 2019–February 16, 2020**

With spectacular artwork and large-scale installations from one of the most widely-celebrated cultural events in the world, *No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man* takes

over OMCA in Fall of 2019. Each year the weeklong Burning Man event attracts over 70,000 people to Nevada's Black Rock Desert. Participants create and build Black Rock City, a temporary metropolis where experimental art installations—some ritually burned to the ground—are the centerpiece for innovators, makers, and a burgeoning artistic community. The exhibition illuminates the values of Burning Man through its guiding Ten Principles: Radical Inclusion, Gifting, Decommodification, Radical Self-reliance, Radical Self-expression, Communal Effort, Civic Responsibility, Leaving No Trace, Participation, and Immediacy. The exhibition features many works by Bay Area artists including jewelry, costumes, "mutant" vehicles, sculptures, photography, and paintings. A companion exhibition within the gallery, *City of Dust: The Evolution of Burning Man*, organized by the Nevada Museum of Art in Reno, traces Burning Man's origins from its countercultural roots in the San Francisco Bay Area to the world-famous desert gathering it is today.

This immersive and multi-sensory experience will extend beyond the gallery walls into the Museum's public spaces—including an OMCA-commissioned 40-foot-tall outdoor temple by internationally-acclaimed sculptor David Best.

*No Spectators: The Art of Burning Man* is organized by the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Organized by the Smithsonian American Art Museum's Renwick Gallery, *No Spectators* will make its final stop at OMCA after traveling to the Cincinnati Art Museum.

The museums especially thank colleagues from Burning Man Project, a nonprofit public benefit corporation, for their close collaboration and assistance throughout the preparation of this exhibition and tour.

Lead support for the exhibition was provided by Intel and Bently Foundation. Support for the exhibition's tour is provided by the C. F. Foundation, Atlanta, Georgia and the William R. Kenan Jr. Endowment Fund.

## **ON VIEW**

### **The World of Charles and Ray Eames Great Hall**

**\*NOW EXTENDED Through February 18, 2019**

Fueled by their belief in design as a way of life, the innovative husband and wife duo Charles and Ray Eames were two of the most influential designers of the twentieth century. Go beyond their most well-known designs in this intimate and inspiring exhibition portraying their legacy and lives in California. The Eameses—who founded The Eames Office—valued knowledge and discovery, embraced the joy of trial and error, and saw no separation between life and work. Through multi-media installations, films, rare prototypes, photography, furniture, toys, products, as well as personal letters, drawings, and artwork, discover the story of the Eameses from a fresh perspective. Explore the breadth of their work across many fields in this interactive exhibition that brings their ideas and playful spirit to life.

*The World of Charles and Ray Eames* was curated and organized by Barbican Art Gallery, London. The Oakland Museum of California presentation is made possible by Herman Miller and the Oakland Museum Women's Board, in collaboration with the

Barbican Art Gallery and Eames Office, with support from Terra Foundation. There is a \$4 charge for this special exhibition in addition to regular Museum admission.

### **Cruisin' the Fossil Coastline**

#### **Gallery of California Art**

**Through March 17, 2019**

Drop back in time to see the natural environment of California in a new way. Discover the connections between art and science through fantastically colorful renderings by artist Ray Troll and the research of paleontologist Kirk Johnson, who made an incredible journey to map the ancient world with a fresh perspective. Together, the fossil-loving scientist and his artist friend paint a vivid picture of the land and creatures that once roamed the West Coast thousands of years ago. Learn how fossils teach us about how California's landscape, plants, and animals have evolved over millions of years. With the addition of sculpture, maps, a giant sloth—or *Paramylodon harlani*—and other fossils and bones from the collections of OMCA and the California Academy of Sciences, and a fun hands-on activity, this exhibition will thrill fossil fans and curious culture-seekers alike. The exhibition is organized by the Anchorage Museum.

### **Take Root: Oakland Grows Food**

#### **Gallery of California Natural Sciences**

**Through November 2019**

Unearth Oakland's multi-layered world of food in *Take Root: Oakland Grows Food*, an exhibition exploring aspects of growing food in Oakland. Enjoy this hands-on exhibition with the entire family to understand what factors determine where, how, why, and what is grown throughout the city. Hear personal stories from farmers and growers within the community, see compelling illustrations and maps, and meet the diverse flavors of Oakland. Learn what motivations Oaklanders have for growing food—including access to healthy and delicious ingredients, environmental and social justice values, or simply the joy of tending a garden. Visitors will be invited to share personal stories, explore interactive activities, and gain a deeper understanding of Oakland's agriculture.

### **Question Bridge: Black Males**

#### **On view now in the Gallery of California Art**

Hailed as one of the Bay Area's Top Exhibitions by the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Question Bridge: Black Males* returns to the Oakland Museum of California's Gallery of California Art. Immerse yourself in intimate videos—woven together and arranged to simulate face-to-face conversations between participants—among a diverse group of over 160 Black men across the United States. Hear these men answer each other's questions with exceptional honesty and vulnerability, and share stories, beliefs, and values in a personal portrayal of their lives. Encompassing themes of family, love, interracial relationships, community, education, and wisdom, *Question Bridge: Black Males* presents nuanced portraits of past, present, and future of Black men in American society. Listen, watch, learn, and start your own conversations with this profoundly moving installation.

A recent acquisition to the Oakland Museum of California's permanent collection, *Question Bridge* is an innovative and widely exhibited video installation from artists Chris Johnson and Hank Willis Thomas in collaboration with Bayeté Ross Smith and Kamal Sinclair. Joining the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture and the Brooklyn Museum, OMCA is proud to acquire this groundbreaking and poignant work for its collection.

## **ABOUT THE OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA**

The Oakland Museum of California (OMCA) tells the many stories that comprise California, creating the space and context for greater connection, trust, and understanding between people. Through its inclusive exhibitions, public programs, educational initiatives, and cultural events, OMCA brings Californians together and inspires greater understanding about what our state's art, history, and natural surroundings teach us about ourselves and each other. With more than 1.9 million objects, OMCA brings together its multi-disciplinary collections of art, history, and natural science with the first-person accounts and often untold narratives of California, all within its 110,000 square feet of gallery space and seven-acre campus. 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 for visitors from the region, the state, and around the world.

## **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. There is a \$4 charge in addition to general admission pricing for special exhibitions. 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](http://museumca.org)

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