

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bessma Khalaf, *Knock Out (Landscape)*, 2008, Archival pigment print on photographic paper, Collection Mills College Art Museum, Gift of the Artist.

STATE OF CONVERGENCE

JANUARY 22–FEBRUARY 23, 2020, Slide Space 123

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 25, 2020, 5:30-7:30PM

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NOVEMBER 20, 2020—Mills College Art Museum is pleased to announce *State of Convergence*. The exhibition foregrounds the work of historically underrepresented artists to explore the cultural diversity of our region. The exhibition features both contemporary and historical works by Bay Area artists from Mills College Art Museum's permanent

collection and highlights the Northern California landscape as a site of resistance, abundance, and celebration.

Featured artists, such as Rupert Garcia, Bessma Khalaf and Hung Liu, make politically charged works that directly critique the impact of colonialism in California, while acknowledging the foundational role of immigration to the State's civil fabric. Works by Traci Bartlow, Keba Armand Konte, and Carmen Lomas Garza, celebrate family, friendship, and cultural identity. Whether narrative or verging on abstract, the artworks in *State of Convergence* survey the different ways artists represent their local communities, reflecting on subjects including indigenous ceremony, immigration, gender, urban community, activism, and white gentrification.

The exhibition showcases additional pieces from MCAM's unique holdings with works by Kim Anno, Mildred Howard, Mary Lovelace O'Neal, Bill Owens, Raymond Saunders and selections from the museum's collection of Native American baskets.

State of Convergence is curated by students in the Fall 2019 Museum Studies Workshop: Janin Escobedo-Garcia, Ely Gann, Fiona Ordway Mosser, Grace Patterson, Isabella Perry, and Emma Sugarbaker. The exhibition is accompanied by a digital catalogue featuring original scholarship by the students.

ABOUT THE MILLS COLLEGE ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1925, The Mills College Art Museum is a forum for exploring art and ideas and a laboratory for contemporary art practices. Through innovative exhibitions, programs, and collections, the museum engages and inspires the intellectual and creative life of the Mills community as well as the diverse audiences of the Bay Area and beyond.

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