

# BERKELEY ART CENTER

1275 Walnut Street  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
510.644.6893  
[berkeleyartcenter.org](http://berkeleyartcenter.org)

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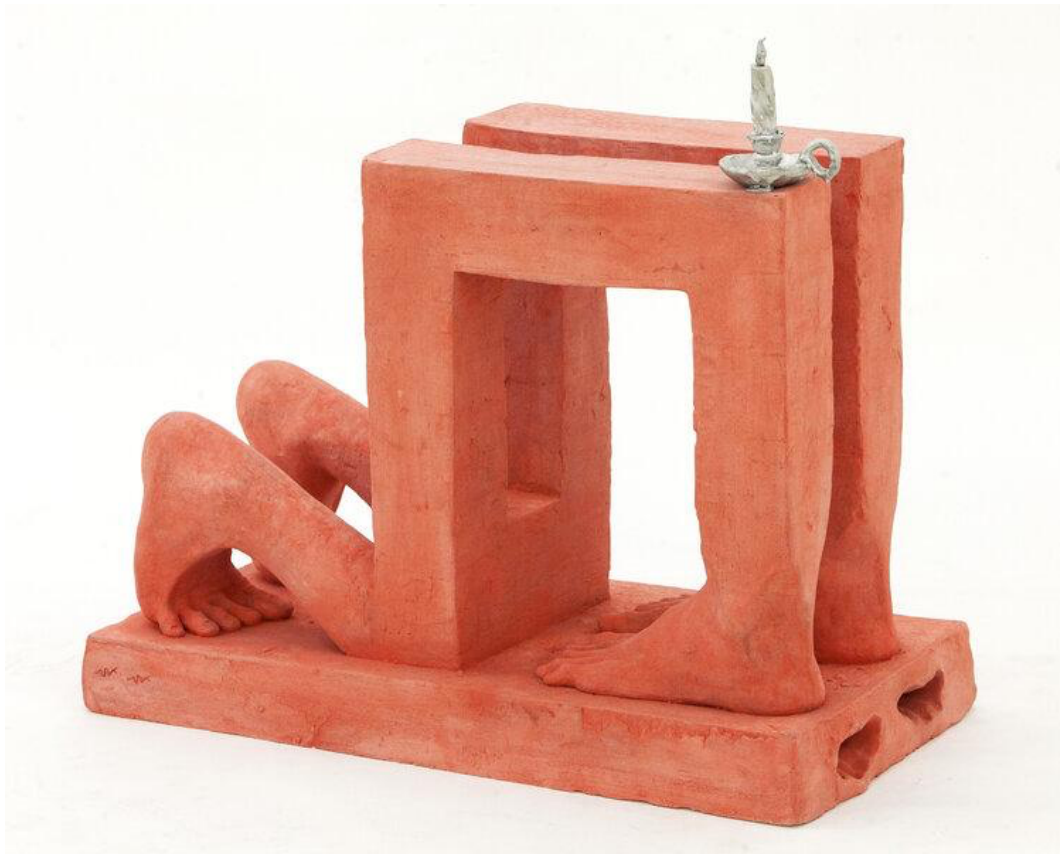
Press Inquiries: Daniel Nevers, Co-Director  
[info@berkeleyartcenter.org](mailto:info@berkeleyartcenter.org)

## *Midas: How Art Becomes Life & Life Becomes Art*

January 29–March 26, 2022

Curated by Squeak Carnwath

Works by Maria A. Guzmán Capron, Ricki Dwyer, Linda Geary, Sahar Khoury,  
Jerry Leisure, Kyle Lypka & Tyler Cross, and John Moore



Kyle Lypka and Tyler Cross, *Lodestone*, 2020, ceramic, glaze, and cast aluminum, 27 in. x 30 in. x 14.5 in.  
Image courtesy of the artists and pt. 2 gallery, Oakland.

January 11 , Berkeley, Calif. — **Berkeley Art Center** presents *Midas: How Art Becomes Life & Life Becomes Art*, a group exhibition curated by artist **Squeak Carnwath** that celebrates the mystery of the creative process. Featuring works by an intergenerational group of Bay Area artists, the show includes objects of inspiration and remnants from the studio alongside finished works. These objects hint at the ways in which artists absorb ideas and material culture, and then transcribe them into gestures, patterns, forms or even a way of life.

“Like the legend of Midas, the creative process speaks to something alchemical that is both a blessing and a curse,” says Carnwath. “It’s not easy or glamorous being an artist; it comes with a huge responsibility to witness and record the world in a way that no one else can. But that is also the joy of it.”

Exploding with exuberant color, sly humor, and surprising personality, the artworks in the show include painting, works on paper, textiles, ceramics, and sculpture. The exhibition serves as a testament to joy as a kind of strategy in the face of the absurdity of our current social and political situations. Grappling with serious issues of racism, gender, patriarchy, assimilation, and connection, the artists in *Midas* find ways to upend and poke fun at systems of power while also revealing something deeper about themselves and the world. The artifacts they have chosen to display range from the literal to the mysterious, inviting viewers to forge their own creative associations.

Through a combination of hand-sewn textiles and paints, **Maria A. Guzmán Capron** joins together an array of patterns and striking colors to fashion bodily forms. Merging figuration with abstraction, her works explore cultural hybridity, pride, and the competing desires to assimilate and to be seen.

For **Ricki Dwyer**, his 10-year relationship with the loom has been encoded by the body with an emotional temperament that carries over into all the ways he engages with the world. Inserted into the ancestry of skilled labor, manual dexterity, and the spirituality of world-building, being a weaver has allowed his own identity construction to be understood through the fluid and contextually determined material of cloth. He honors drapery as the negotiation that things will never fall the same way twice.



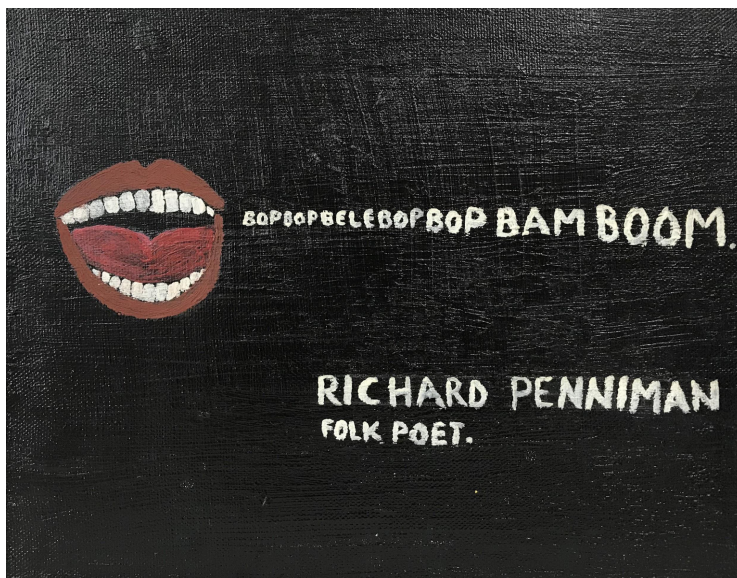
Maria A. Guzmán Capron, *Caracol*, 2020, fabric, thread, batting and acrylic paint, 58 in. x 46 in. Image courtesy of the artist and Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles.

**Linda Geary**'s work is inspired by material processes of cutting, revision, and repair. She uses collage and other approaches that reference actions of sewing and construction, modes of working that sometimes exist outside of the patriarchal history of painting and that are more akin to laying a path of stones or making a quilt. Other parts of the process involve erasure, invisibility, and camouflage. Textiles provide an alphabet of shape, color, and pattern that she works with in order to let the work "fall apart" so that she can then experiment with different ways of putting it back together.

**Sahar Khoury** makes sculptures that integrate abstraction, personal and political symbols, and an intuitive sensitivity to site. Experimenting with found or rejected objects combined with more familiar artist materials such as clay, cement, and papier-mâché, she continues to develop an idiosyncratic approach, with a primary commitment to combining diverse materials and an aesthetics of the "survived."

**Jerry Leisure** makes polychromed wood sculptures using traditional techniques. He sees the pieces as small meditations that combine whimsy with serious intent. He believes an art object can pass on the contemplative aspects of its making and that it doesn't have to speak a particular language to have effect.

The artistic duo of **Kyle Lypka** and **Tyler Cross** explore relationship and collaboration using glazed ceramic, cast aluminum, and mixed media sculptures. Recent work includes overt references to the human form combined with material experimentation in the hyper-glazed finishes of their sculptures.



A prolific artist who eschews the gallery system, **John Moore** rarely shows his work publicly. Over decades, he has transformed his North Oakland home and studio into a living museum filled with original paintings, collages, drawings, and sculpture. Every wall, shelf, tabletop, and countertop is carefully curated with handmade artworks, objects, and curios from a life dedicated to the role of art in one's daily life.

John Moore, *Bopbopbelebopbamboom*, 1997, acrylic on canvas, 10 in. x 8.25 in. Image courtesy of the artist.

### **About the Curator**

**Squeak Carnwath** draws upon the philosophical and mundane experiences of daily life in her paintings and prints, which can be identified by lush fields of color combined with text, patterns, and identifiable images. She has received numerous awards including the Society for the Encouragement of Contemporary Art (SECA) Award from San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, two Individual Artist Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Award for Individual Artists from the Flintridge Foundation, and the Lee Krasner Lifetime Achievement Award from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. In 2019, she was inducted into the National Academy of Design and Art. Carnwath is Professor Emerita at the University of California, Berkeley. She lives and works in Oakland, California.

### **About Berkeley Art Center**

Berkeley Art Center (BAC) is a hub for artistic exploration and community building that champions work by Bay Area artists and curators. Nestled in Live Oak Park in North Berkeley, the gallery makes contemporary art approachable and accessible – for free – at an intimate scale. Since its founding in 1967, BAC has exhibited work by important local figures such as Robert Bechtle, Enrique Chagoya, Taraneh Hemami, Mildred Howard, Hung Liu, Jim Melchert, Chiura Obata, Sonya Rapoport, Betye Saar, Katherine Sherwood, Peter Voulkos, and Carrie Mae Weems, among many others.

For more information and images, contact Daniel Nevers at 510-644-6893 or [info@berkeleyartcenter.org](mailto:info@berkeleyartcenter.org). Berkeley Art Center is located in Live Oak Park at 1275 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94709. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11 am to 5 pm. Admission is free. Generous support for Berkeley Art Center is provided by the City of Berkeley, Alameda County Arts Commission, California Arts Council, East Bay Community Foundation/East Bay Fund for Artists, Mechanics Bank, National Endowment for the Arts, Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, Zellerbach Family Foundation, and BAC's members and donors.

### **Update on COVID Safety Protocols**

In accordance with public health recommendations, Berkeley Art Center requires visitors to wear a KN95 or N95 mask at all times while indoors, with nose and mouth fully covered, regardless of vaccination status. No appointments are necessary, but capacity is limited to eight visitors at a time. Busy times may require a brief wait outdoors. When conditions allow, an announcement about a public reception for the exhibition with the artists and curator will be made online at [berkeleyartcenter.org](http://berkeleyartcenter.org) and on Instagram [@berkeleyartcenter](https://www.instagram.com/berkeleyartcenter)

### **Artist Bios**

**Ricki Dwyer** is an artist and educator living in Brooklyn, New York. He is currently teaching at York College and was a 2021 Facebook Artist In Residence. He received his undergraduate degree from Savannah College of Art and Design and an MFA from

University of California, Berkeley. He has exhibited with Anglim Gilbert (San Francisco), SLASH (/) (San Francisco), Guerrero Gallery (San Francisco), and the Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive. He has been artist in residence with Beximco Textiles (Dhaka, Bangladesh), Recology (San Francisco), Jupiter Woods Gallery (London), and the Textile Arts Center (New York). He has been a recipient of the NEA Grant, Eisner Prize, Murphy and Cadogan Contemporary Art Award, and the Queer Cultural Center's Emerging Scholar Award.

**Linda Geary's** work has been shown in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, San Francisco, and Otranto, Italy, including exhibitions at Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, Oakland Museum of California, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. She is the recipient of the Elizabeth Foundation and Pollock-Krasner Foundation grants. Residencies include MacDowell, Art Omi, Yaddo, and Sanskriti (India). Her recent exhibition *Yes Way* at Gallery 16 (San Francisco) included a three-book catalogue project with writings by Jordan Stein, Norma Cole, Larry Rinder, Suzanne L'Heureux, and Scott Hewicker. She completed a permanent mosaic installation at the San Francisco Airport International Terminal in 2021. She is Professor and Chair of Painting at California College of the Arts in San Francisco, and lives and works in Oakland. Geary is represented by Gallery 16 in San Francisco.

**Maria A. Guzmán Capron** was born in Italy to Colombian and Peruvian parents. She received her MFA from California College of the Arts, San Francisco in 2015 and her BFA from the University of Houston in 2004. Solo exhibitions include Shulamit Nazarian (Los Angeles); Texas State Galleries (San Marcos, TX); Premier Junior (San Francisco); Roll Up Project (Oakland, CA); and Guerrero Gallery (San Francisco). Select group exhibitions include Buffalo Institute for Contemporary Art (Buffalo, NY); NIAD Art Center (Richmond, CA); Shulamit Nazarian (Los Angeles); pt.2 Gallery (Oakland, CA); CULT Aimee Friberg Exhibitions (San Francisco); Deli Gallery (Brooklyn, NY); and Mana Contemporary (Chicago). Her works have been written about in *Hyperallergic*, *Variable West*, *Bomb Magazine*, and *Art in America*. Guzmán Capron is represented by Shulamit Nazarian in Los Angeles.

**Sahar Khoury** is an artist based in Oakland, California. She received her BA in Anthropology from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1996 and her MFA from the University of California, Berkeley in 2013. She was the recipient of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's 2019 SECA Art Award and appeared in *Bay Area Now 8* in 2018 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. Khoury's work has been exhibited at SFMOMA, YBCA, Oakland Museum of California, The Wattis Institute, Berkeley Art Museum & Pacific Film Archive, diRosa Center for Contemporary Art, Rebecca Camacho Presents (San Francisco) and CANADA (New York). Khoury's work has been written about in the *New Yorker*, *Art Review*, and *Hyperallergic*. Khoury is represented by Rebecca Camacho Presents in San Francisco.

**Jerry Leisure** is a sculptor based in the San Francisco Bay Area. He received an MFA from Washington State University and a BA from the University of California, Berkeley. His work has been displayed at St. Mary's College (Moraga, CA), the Richard L. Nelson Gallery at the University of California, Davis, Bedford Gallery (Walnut Creek, CA), and SFMOMA Artists Gallery (San Francisco), among others. He has taught art at Washington State University and Diablo Valley College for over five decades.

**Kyle Lypka** and **Tyler Cross** met online in 2013. They live and work in Oakland, California. In 2016 they started making ceramic vases together as a way to spend time with one another. Kyle had been pursuing figurative sculpture and Tyler was studying design. The vases lead into a collaborative sculpture practice that they each found provided novel possibilities while also solving some of the difficulties of being a lone artist in the studio. Lypka and Cross are represented by pt. 2 gallery in Oakland.

Born in Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1938, **John Moore** moved to Oakland, California, at the age of three. In 2019, his work was featured in a group show along with the artist Oliver Jackson at Creativity Explored in San Francisco. He was included in a group exhibition at Fiber Works Center for the Textile Arts in the late 1970s alongside contemporaries Raymond Holbert, Arthur Monroe, E.J. Montgomery, and Raymond Saunders; his work also appeared in a 2006 exhibition at Santa Rosa Junior College focusing on the collection of artist Mildred Howard, who curated both of the aforementioned shows. A monograph of his work with an essay by Nick Stone was published in 2018.

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