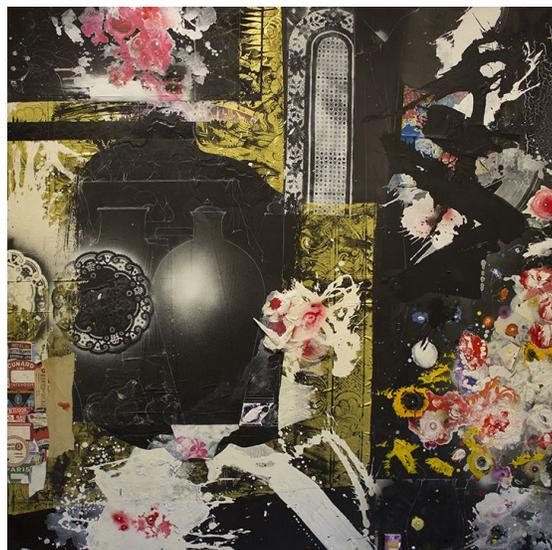


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MarinMOCA presents: “This Is For You”, Raymond Saunders
A Bay Area Legends Exhibition

NOVATO, CA (January 2017) The Marin Museum of Contemporary Art is thrilled to present ***This Is For You***, an exhibit by established Bay Area artist Raymond Saunders. The exhibit will include over 50 selected works, spanning the past two decades, including recent work completed in the past two years. Filling both galleries, this exhibit is on view from February 25 through April 2, 2017, with an Artist’s Reception on March 4th, 5-7PM

The exhibition offers an extensive look at Raymond Saunders’ work and his visual vocabulary. Saunders’ work can be loosely described as mixed media collage painting and he uses materials without concern for their archival merits. One can find familiar objects such as newspapers, wallpaper, or even a plastic bag. The materials, like the compositions themselves, are spontaneous and inclusive, without bias against the most humble print or paper. Saunders has an aesthetic all his own. Despite his variety of mark-making and source material, each piece is cohesive; each included element feels carefully balanced. The large paintings included in this exhibition illustrate this well, and prove to be good examples of his iconic blend of urban ephemera, graceful linework, and improvisational brushwork- most against a rich black ground. Of particular interest in this exhibition is his use of abstracted flowering blooms. They emerge sometimes as messy whites splatters with deep red centers on some of the larger works, More recent, smaller pieces forgo his signature black background and instead rest on vacant white space. They are satisfying shades of intense blue or red with delicate graphite stems. Though many of these new small works are a fraction of the size of his larger paintings, nevertheless, Saunders creates elegant compositions as deftly as the ones that are significantly larger.



Saunders is in his eighth decade, but at a time when many artists become concerned with their legacy and place in the history books, Saunders is more concerned with ensuring access and mentorship for future young artists. It is out of this desire to share the work intentionally and broadly, that the exhibition's title, ***This is For You***, was conceived. Part of his interest for an exhibition at the Marin Museum of Contemporary Art was tied to the fact that it is open and accessible to all, and the museum charges no admission fee. Although Saunders has concurrent exhibitions happening internationally, he was extremely generous and open to exhibiting his work at MarinMOCA, and for that we are honored to have the opportunity to exhibit and share his work with the public.

Image: RS17-35 (Untitled), Mixed media on canvas, 54 x 54 in., Image courtesy: MarinMOCA

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Saunders credits an early teacher and mentor as a key influence in his life as an artist and is mindful about his luck at receiving encouragement at a young age in a public school setting. To that end he has collaborated enthusiastically with school children throughout his career. His desire to share his enthusiasm with other young artists of all ages and skill levels still burns bright, and collaborations with local high school students have been incorporated into this exhibition as well.

Saunders received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1960. He trained at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Barnes Foundation before going on to earn his Master of Fine Arts degree from California College of Arts and Crafts in 1961. His work can be found in the collections of the M. H. de Young Memorial Museum (San Francisco, California), the Museum of Contemporary Art (Los Angeles, California), the Museum of Modern Art (New York, New York), the Oakland Museum of California (Oakland, California), the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania), the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (San Francisco, California), the Berkeley Art Museum (Berkeley, California), the Walker Art Center, (Minneapolis, Minnesota), and the Whitney Museum of American Art (New York, New York). He is Professor Emeritus at Cal State East Bay in Hayward and President's Fellow at CCA.



CONTACT

Complete curator's statement and high resolution images available upon request from Susan Sharman at: events@marinmoca.org or call (415) 506-0137

Image above right: RS17-45 (Unfilled), Mixed Media and graphite on panel, 10 x 8 in., Image courtesy: MarinMOCA
Image above left: RS17-43 (Unfilled), Mixed Media and graphite on panel, 6 x 6 in., Image courtesy: MarinMOCA

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About MarinMOCA:

MarinMOCA was started in 1983 by artists passionate about providing a supportive structure for artists' growth while incorporating a strong element of community service into the organization. Housed within the Novato Arts Center on Hamilton Field, the museum hosts classes, lectures, events and exhibits which support the artist and inspire the community. With over 150 artist members and 15 exhibitions per year, MarinMOCA is a vibrant arts destination in Marin that showcases outstanding local and international contemporary artworks.

Marin Museum of Contemporary Art | marinmoca.org

Located at the Novato Arts Center at Hamilton Field | 500 Palm Drive, Novato, California 94949