

Exhibition Specifications

Title: *My Hero: Contemporary Art & Superhero Action*

Available: May 2016 – March 2018

Curator: Carrie Lederer, Curator of Exhibitions and Programs

Organizing Institution:

Bedford Gallery, City of Walnut Creek
 1601 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94596
www.bedfordgallery.org

Description:

My Hero: Contemporary Art & Superhero Action presents a sprawling collection of international artworks - in a variety of media - that celebrates and re-envision the lives of iconic superheroes.

For decades popular culture has been fascinated by superheroes – their superhuman capabilities, their desire for truth and justice, and their ability to save the day. Their storylines have captivated many, and their imagery has become contemporary idols throughout the world.

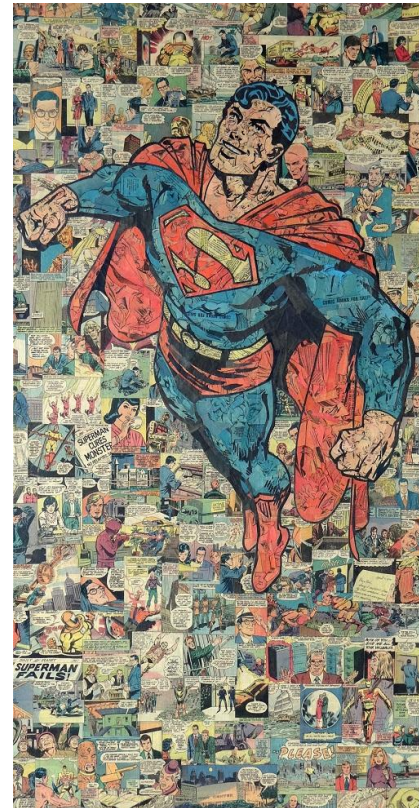
Born of the imaginings and talent of comic artists several generations ago, contemporary artists today continue to tap the world of the superhero, paying tribute to the characters that were early artistic inspirations. They are eager to explore the alluring concept of what it means to have an *avatar*, or alter ego, and continue to be enraptured by the superhero storyline and skills: superhuman strength, startling bravery, enthralling adventures, and even their weaknesses. This all can be found in contemporary works today, such as Mike Alcantara’s “Superman” collage of vintage comics, which pays homage to the classical character yet presented as fresh, reimagined iconography.

Some contemporary artists are exploring untold aspects of the superhero story: their childhood, the golden years, and alternative lifestyles – all of which humanizes the superhero and adds to the fantasy. Disconnected from their hero

storylines, and stripped of their superpowers, the resulting works are simultaneously humorous and dark, like Swedish artist, Andreas Englund’s depictions of an aging superhero.

Objects: Approximately 50-75 artworks by an international roster of artists. The exhibition will include a wide array of media, including painting, illustration, photography, sculpture, mixed media and video.

Artists: Mike Alcantara, Clemintine Campardou Blule, Katherine Bradford, Robert Xavier Burden, Penny Byrne, Enrique Chagoya, Sandra Chevrier, Mark D’Alfonso, Andreas Englund, Jeremy Fisher, Cheong-ah Hwang, Graham Kirk, Benoit Laprey, Carlo Foto Marvellini, Simon Monk, Mark Newport, Jenny Parks, Mel Ramos, Lizabeth Eva Rossof, Steve Seeley, Inez Storer, Mark Todd, Adrian Tranquilli, Jason Yarmosky, and many others (to be announced).



Mike Alcantara, *Superman*, collage print on canvas, 24” x 48”



Andreas Englund, *Sitting*, print, 39.4” x 27.6”



Jeremy Fisher
Bruce Wayne, The Batman, 2014, sculpture

Space Required: 3,000 sq. feet (approximately; scalable for smaller venues)

Security: Moderate-High: works are fragile, requiring trained museum staff for handling, installation, and supervision. Twenty four hour monitoring required by staff during public hours, and by electronic alarm system during all other times.

Equipment: pedestals with vitrines for some sculpture work.

Rental Fee: \$6,000 for 8 weeks, plus cost of one-way, outgoing shipping. A deposit of \$1,000 is required to secure booking.

Provide materials: Digital files of all wall labels including the Artists' statements/biographies, the Curator's introductory panel, object identification labels, and "fun facts" labels for kids. Also provided electronically: Visitors' Exhibition Guide, audio guide (of select works in MP3 format), public program and art project examples, installation information, and a press guide with links to high resolution images, logos, press coverage and design examples.

Contact: Alesha Colberg Martinez, Tour Coordinator

Telephone: 925-295-1435 **Email:** colberg-martinez@bedfordgallery.org



Mark Newport

Left: *Self-Made*, 2004, photograph, edition of 5, 24" x 36"

Right: *Spiderman*, 2003, hand knit acrylic and buttons, 80" x 23" x 6" Collection of Nowhere Ltd.



Robert Xavier-Burden, *The Holy Batman*, 2013, oil on canvas, 85" x 145"