

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Krasl Art Center to open *Personal to Political:*
Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press
September 1–November 25, 2018**



**Images available upon request*

St. Joseph, MI – August 17, 2018 – The Krasl Art Center is pleased to announce *Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press* as part of its exhibition programming during the 2017-18 season. This exciting exhibition organized and traveling by the Bedford Gallery (California), features works by African American artists who have helped to shape the contemporary art conversation in the Bay Area and beyond. The show covers a wide range of prints, paintings, quilts, and sculptures, and includes an array of abstract and formal imagery. Narratives that speak to personal experiences and political perspectives are woven throughout. At the heart of this show is a Berkeley based fine art print studio—Paulson Fontaine Press—who over the past two decades has developed an unparalleled roster of internationally celebrated artists - artists like Martin Puryear, Kerry James Marshall, and the Gee's Bend Quilters – who characterize the fresh perspectives that are today's avant-garde.

About Paulson Fontaine Press: Established in Emeryville in 1996, Paulson Fontaine Press, formerly Paulson Bott Press, is known for amplifying important, often underrepresented, voices in the visual arts. In 1997, after hearing the painter Kerry James Marshall give a talk about the dearth of Black voices and representation in major museums and art institutions co-founder Pam Paulson realized there was a vacuum to be filled. Through their fine art publishing program, Paulson Fontaine Press reaches new audiences for African American artists across the country. Artists include Chicago-based McArthur Binion who is known for bringing a personal narrative into the reductive materialism of minimalism. Samuel Levi Jones, known for compositions created from deconstructed institutional texts. Bay Area artist Lava Thomas, whose multidisciplinary practice considers themes of social justice, female subjectivity, current events and the shifting tides of history. As well as Edgar Areneaux, a Los Angeles native who has been a pivotal leader of the Watts House Project, an effort to revitalize the Watts community through art.

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About the importance of this focus at the press, Rhea Fontaine states: "People like William Arnett, who supported the Gee's Bend Quilters, and Lowery Stokes Sims, whose pioneering work at the Metropolitan Museum and the Studio Museum in Harlem introduced so many minority artists to larger audiences-these are the people who are taking risks that others aren't willing to take, saying things that other people aren't willing to say, seeing things that other people are not seeing. We've always tried to connect ourselves with that type of visionary. Because of them, a handful of these really talented artists have become known to us and the world at large." <http://paulsonfontaine.com/>

Personal to Political: Celebrating the African American Artists of Paulson Fontaine Press was organized by Carrie Lederer, Curator of Exhibition, Bedford Gallery, Leshar Center for the Arts, Walnut Creek, CA.



Images, left to right: Kerry James Marshall, *Untitled (Handsome Young Man)*, 2010, hardground etching with aquatint; David Huffman, *Hoop Dreams*, 2007, color softground and spitbite aquatint etching; Martin Puryear, *Untitled VI (State II)*, 2012, color softground etching with drypoint and spitbite aquatint; All images courtesy of Paulson Fontaine Press, Berkeley, CA.

In the **artlab**: Allison Svoboda
September 1 through November 25, 2018

Allison Svoboda uses the patterns and forms found in nature to create intricate, collages of layered pen and ink paintings that are assembled into large scale installations. Meditative, bold and delicate all at once, her work draws viewers in and holds them captivated.

Coffee with the Curator: Monday, September 10 at 9 am; free & open to the public. Walk through the Krasl Art Center galleries to learn more about the art on view with KAC's Deputy Director, Tami Miller.

Exhibition-related programming: Saturday, November 17 at 10 am. The Krasl Art Center will offer an artist talk and workshop on Saturday, November 17, beginning at 10 AM – please see details below:

10 AM: ARTIST TALK

Join artist Allison Svoboda in the **artlab** as she discusses the process and inspiration behind her artwork. Enjoy a snack and continued dialogue in the KAC lobby after.

11AM: SUMI-E PAINTING WORKSHOP WITH ALLISON SVOBODA

Free & Open to the Public – Advance Registration Required – Email curatorial@krasl.org

Learn the meditative practice of traditional Asian ink painting. Sumi-e means path of ink, through different brushstrokes we will learn different ways to control the medium. Allison will teach basic brushstrokes and help those who want to experiment with their own original work. This 2 hour workshop is appropriate for all levels. Japanese 'washi' paper, ink and brushes are provided.

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About the Krasl Art Center: The Krasl Art Center is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The Krasl Art Center is located in downtown St. Joseph, Michigan overlooking Lake Michigan. The KAC has three public galleries, five studios, a library/lecture room, a black and white wet darkroom, a gift shop, and a permanent collection of 42 works of sculpture. Through its mission to bring people and art together, the KAC offers thoughtful exhibitions, engaging classes and camps, community events such as Krasl Art Fair on the Bluff and the Artisan Market, outreach opportunities, and cultural exploration. The Krasl Art Center is funded in part by the Michigan Council for the Arts & Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

The Krasl Art Center galleries are open Monday-Wednesday, Friday & Saturday from 10-4; Thursday from 10-9; and Sunday 1-4. Admission to the galleries is free of charge. For more information, please contact the Krasl Art Center at 269.983.0271, or visit www.krasl.org.

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