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Katonah Museum of Art's latest exhibition weaves contemporary ideas with traditional techniques



Alyssa Seidman

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Tradition Interrupted is a nationally traveling exhibition organized by Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, Calif.

Jason Mandella

An exhibition fraught with diversity and distinction is currently on view at the Katonah Museum of Art. In *Tradition Interrupted*, 12 artists from around the world conflate contemporary ideas with traditional techniques to re-envision cultural conventions, offering a viewer experience unlike any other.

“The Museum as an entity is very community-focused, but having international exhibitions allows it to operate on a global scale,” Marketing & Communications Manager Caroline Holder said. “It touches all elements and invites everyone in in a different way, just as art does.”

The artists and traditions featured in *Tradition Interrupted* hail from every corner of the globe, including Azerbaijan, France, Morocco, Mexico, Vietnam, Pakistan, and America. Though the works span a wide range of media – from rugs and mosaics to metalwork and ceramics – they share a common thread.

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“While the artists are so distinct in the techniques they employ in conceptualizing and creating their art, they share a process of embracing and unraveling tradition and merging it with innovation, resulting in works that distort historical conventions and push art in a new direction,” Holder said.

The artists merge traditional crafts honed over centuries with themes and undertones that are relevant to contemporary society. This juxtaposition results in a thought-provoking display of images and objects that pushes viewers to tap into their own understandings about the world around them.

A series of take-out containers cast in ancient ceramic patterns, for example, acknowledges the past while calling out the present. “Disposables” was conceptualized by Mexican artist Ana Gómez, and presents the idea that familial traditions like sharing a meal at the table become increasingly obsolete in a fast-paced, digitized society.

Like Gómez, many of the artists in *Tradition Interrupted* explore what historical traditions represent in our globally-connected world. Others repurpose found objects to ensure the cultural memories they embody live on, or use age-old techniques to pose new questions about history, gender, and sexuality.

“It demonstrates how art can be transformed in many different ways,” Holder said. “The way we all experience and explore these works is personal, just like it is for the artists when they create them.”

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Tradition Interrupted is on view in the Mary L. Beitzel and Sally and Volney Righter Galleries through Sept. 25, 2022. Admission is \$12 for adults and \$6 seniors and students. Members and children under the age of 12 enter for free. (*Tradition*

Interrupted is a traveling exhibition organized by Bedford Gallery in Walnut Creek, Calif.)

Also on view

The Museum's Spot Gallery features *Remy Jungerman: Higher Ground*. The exhibition includes a selection from the artist's three major bodies of work, which explore the connections between pattern and symbol in Surinamese Maroon culture and European "modernism."

The Rothko Room features "Untitled," a bold red acrylic on paper commissioned during the last year of Mark Rothko's life. As he recovered from the lingering effects of an aneurysm, the artist turned to a new medium, which allowed him to work more spontaneously and experimentally.

The Katonah Museum of Art is located at 134 Jay St. in Katonah, N.Y. For more information, visit www.katonahmuseum.org.

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Alyssa is a marketing content writer for Hearst Connecticut Media Group. She was previously the editor of The Ridgefield Press. Before moving to Connecticut, Alyssa worked at Herald Community Newspapers on (not in) Long Island, N.Y. Her reporting has been recognized by the New York Press Association, but she is most proud of her award for best headline writing. When she's not writing, Alyssa enjoys going to the beach, exploring new places and belting at karaoke.

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