

Exhibition: *Bari Kumar: Remembering the Future*
Dates: January 30–June 13, 2015
Location: Charles White Elementary School

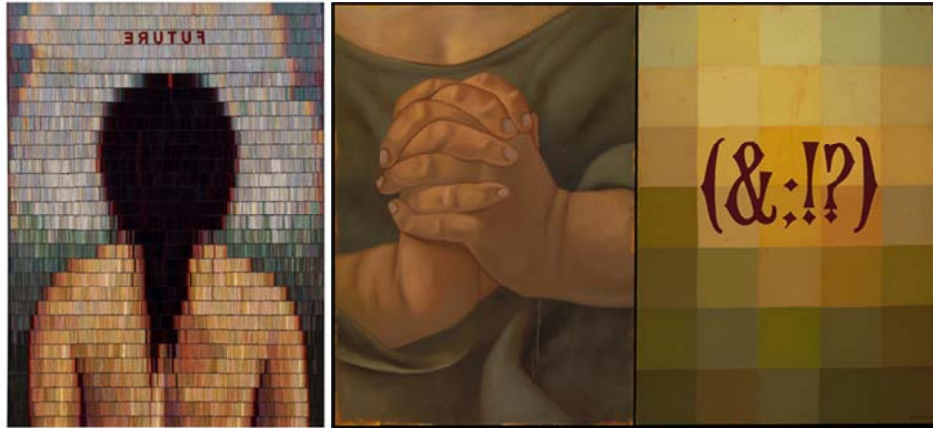


Image captions Page 3

(Los Angeles – January 21, 2015) The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) presents *Bari Kumar: Remembering the Future*, on view at LACMA's satellite gallery in Charles White Elementary School in MacArthur Park through June 13. The exhibition explores the work of Los Angeles–based contemporary artist Bari Kumar through 10 original works by the artist, including oil paintings and cloth constructions that explore themes of fragmentation, the human body, and iconography from the East and the West. Kumar's work will be presented alongside ancient objects from LACMA's South and Southeast Asian Art collection dating from the ninth through the early 20th century. Additionally, a new ephemeral work, created collaboratively between Charles White Elementary School students and the artist, will be on view. Together the group will produce a *rangoli*, a traditional Indian art form created with colored powder. The *rangoli* is created for celebratory occasions, such as special holidays, and is usually found at the entrance of a home or courtyard. The school's *rangoli* will be created, erased, then re-created by students throughout the duration of the exhibition. Additionally, the *rangoli* will periodically be outside of the gallery to welcome the community into the exhibition.

Bari Kumar: Remembering the Future will be the seventh exhibition as part of LACMA's On-Site initiative, an ongoing engagement with the museum's surrounding community. This program offers elementary-school students access to original works of art from LACMA's collection and opportunities to interact with artists working

today. This exhibition is co-curated by Eduardo Sanchez of LACMA Education and Julie Romain, assistant curator of South and Southeast Asian Art.

"This collaboration with Bari Kumar is the first time LACMA has presented an exhibition dedicated to South and Southeast Asian art at Charles White Elementary School. *Bari Kumar: Remembering the Future* looks into the past with examples of ancient art from LACMA's collection but also looks to the present through the artist's contemporary works, which draw from ancient objects as a source of inspiration," said Eduardo Sanchez. "This view of the past and connection to the present was one of the inspirations for the title of the exhibition."

"I am thrilled to be working with LACMA and the students of Charles White Elementary School on this exhibition. With the *ranogli* I hope to engage students in a discussion about the symbiotic relationship between creation and destruction through this ephemeral art practice" said artist Bari Kumar.

About Bari Kumar

Born in Andhra Pradesh in 1966, Bari Kumar studied at the Rishi Valley School in India. Kumar moved to Los Angeles in January 1985 and studied graphic design at Otis/Parsons School of Design, graduating in 1988. Kumar's work is informed by his bicultural experiences: canvases feature desolate landscapes with fragmented imagery, words, and symbols and are inspired as much by Los Angeles, where he has lived for 30 years, as from childhood memories of growing up in rural southern India. His work has been shown internationally in India and throughout the United States, including the Craft and Folk Art Museum, San Jose Museum of Art, Queens Museum of Art, Pacific Asia Museum, and more.

LACMA On-Site

The museum has a longstanding relationship with school and community organizations throughout Southern California as part of Art Programs with the Community: LACMA On-site, an ambitious multiyear partnership that has provided art programs and materials to school, libraries, and community organizations throughout LAUSD since 2006. A variety of education programs provide hands-on activities and discussions about art in classrooms, libraries, and public exhibition spaces throughout the region. *Bari Kumar: Remembering the Future* is the seventh LACMA-organized exhibition at Charles White Elementary School, which opened in 2004 on the former campus of Otis College of Art and Design. The school is named after the artist Charles White (1918–1979), who lived in the area and who taught at Otis for many years. Prior exhibitions include *Kaz Oshiro: Chasing Ghosts*; *Shinique Smith: Firsthand, A is for Zebra*; *LA Icons: Urban Light and Watts Towers* (with artists Pato Hebert and Ball-Nogues Studio); *Journey | Recorridos* (with artist Marysa Dowling); and *SWAP* (with artists Mark Bradford and Ruben Ochoa).

Charles White Elementary School Gallery Location

2401 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90057

Opening, Friday, January 30, 2015 | 6–8pm

DJ and museum educator Fernando Cervantes spins a selection of vinyl inspired by the exhibition.

Enter the gallery at the corner of Park View Street and Wilshire Boulevard. Parking is available at the parking garage on Carondelet between Wilshire and 6th Street.

Tickets validated at the gallery.

Charles White Elementary School Gallery Hours

February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, and June 13 | Noon–4:30pm

Credit

This exhibition was organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

About LACMA

Since its inception in 1965, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) has been devoted to collecting works of art that span both history and geography, in addition to representing Los Angeles's uniquely diverse population. Today LACMA is the largest art museum in the western United States, with a collection that includes over 120,000 objects dating from antiquity to the present, encompassing the geographic world and nearly the entire history of art. Among the museum's strengths are its holdings of Asian art, Latin American art, ranging from pre-Columbian masterpieces to works by leading modern and contemporary artists; and Islamic art, of which LACMA hosts one of the most significant collections in the world. A museum of international stature as well as a vital part of Southern California, LACMA shares its vast collections through exhibitions, public programs, and research facilities that attract over a million visitors annually, in addition to serving millions through digital initiatives, such as online collections, scholarly catalogues, and interactive engagement at lacma.org. Situated in Hancock Park on over 20 acres in the heart of Los Angeles, LACMA is located between the ocean and downtown.

Location: 5905 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA, 90036. lacma.org

Image captions:

(left): Bari Kumar, *Remembering Future*, 2008, cloth, plexi, cardboard, Loan courtesy of the artist

(right): Bari Kumar, *Persistence of Hope*, 2008, India, Oil on canvas, Loan courtesy of the artist

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