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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ***THE AMERICAN SCENE: NEW DEAL ART 1935-1943*** **AT THE BEDFORD GALLERY, WALNUT CREEK, OCTOBER 3—DECEMBER 19, 2010**

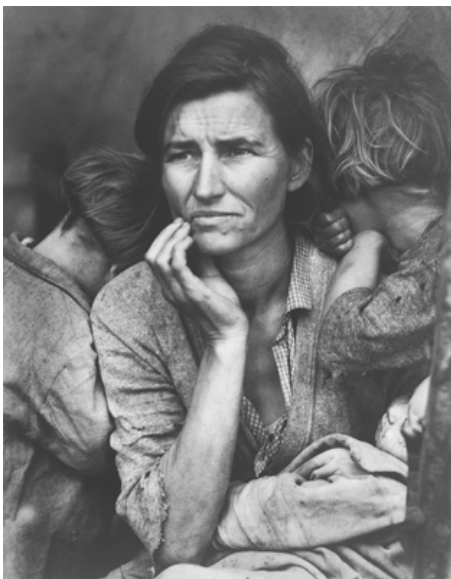
The Bedford Gallery brings history to life with its new exhibition, *The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943*, opening on October 3. An opening reception will be held on October 5 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and will be free and open to the public. This compelling and timeless exhibit celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Federal Art Project (FAP) in California—programs that put thousands to work at the height of the Great Depression. The Bedford Gallery is the only art space in Northern California to hold a full exhibit around this historic milestone.

The Bedford Gallery selected artworks from several WPA repositories including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Most of these works have been in storage and unseen by our community since the 1940s.

*The American Scene* features a selection of prints by American documentary photographer Dorothea Lange (1895–1965). Lange's photographs humanized the tragic consequences of the Great Depression and profoundly influenced the development of documentary photography. The exhibition also includes well known WPA artists Ben Shahn, Beniamino Bufano, Mine Okubo, Diego Rivera, Emmy Lou Packard, Bernard Zakheim and Reuben Kadish.



Millard Everingham, *Mining Camp House*, 1940, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco



Dorothea Lange, *Migrant Mother*, 1936  
Private collection

Created by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the WPA was the largest New Deal agency, employing millions to carry out public works projects. Under the program, artists working for the FAP created more than 200,000 works, including posters, murals, and paintings.

*The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943* was organized by Bedford Gallery curator Carrie Lederer in collaboration with Harvey Smith, project advisor to California's Living New Deal Project and board president of the National New Deal Preservation Association. Lederer and Smith have brought together works by more than 65 artists who worked for the FAP. Visitors to the gallery will see works by men and women from a diversity of backgrounds—Japanese-American, African-American, Russian-American, and Mexican-American. Each played a role in bringing the arts to those suffering tremendous economic setbacks, many of whom had never before been able to afford a cultural experience.

## *The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943*

Curator Carrie Lederer states, “During Roosevelt’s presidency, America was grappling with an economic situation that feels all too familiar today. Even in the midst of the Great Depression, Roosevelt’s administration understood how essential art was to sustaining America’s spirit. The FAP not only employed struggling artists but also provided them with a sense of pride in serving their country.”

*The American Scene* includes paintings, drawings, posters, and photographs from the private collections of Alan Selsor, George Krevsky and M. Lee Stone Fine Prints, Inc. Oakland resident Adria Peterson is lending artworks from the estate of her grandfather, New York WPA artist Domenico Mortellito. The estate of Santa Fe sculptor Milton Hebard contributed several bronze and wood sculptures. A sculpture by Benny Bufano comes from the collection of Beth Danysh, widow of Joe Danysh, who headed the FAP in the West, and William Maynez has lent a Diego Rivera portrait from the Diego Rivera Archive at City College San Francisco.



Jennie Lewis, *The Pepper Tree*, 1938-42, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

This exhibition was supported with funding from Wells Fargo Bank, the Leshner Foundation, Diablo Regional Arts Association, and media sponsor Contra Costa Times.



Images via CD or email available upon request.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Bedford Gallery Opening Reception for *The American Scene* Tuesday, October 5, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres provided by the Bedford Gallery Guild. Enjoy music by *Five Cent Coffee*, performing standards from the Great American Songbook. Sponsored by Diablo Regional Arts Association. Visit [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org) for updated information on related events. Free admission.

#### **California Symphony: *A Tribute to WPA at 75* Sunday, October 3, 2010, 4:00 p.m.**

In collaboration with Bedford Gallery’s *The American Scene*, California Symphony presents *A Tribute to WPA at 75*.

The WPA’s Composers’ Forum-Laboratory had a profound influence on the development of an American voice in classical music. Despite its brief existence, from 1935 to 1940, this Depression-era program, funded by Roosevelt’s New Deal, produced an astounding 5500 new works by some 1500 composers. Among those who thrived under its patronage were the great composer Aaron Copland and Bay Area native treasure Ernst Bacon, as well as Bacon’s close friend, Ansel Adams – a concert pianist, who it is said, was as adept at the keyboard as he was behind a lens. For complete program [www.californiasymphony.org](http://www.californiasymphony.org)



Angelo Sottosanti, *Chinese Busman in Chinatown*, ca. 1940, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco



## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Telephone:** 925/295-1417

**Website:** [www.bedfordgallery.org](http://www.bedfordgallery.org)

**Admission:** General \$5; Youth (17 and under) \$3; Children 12 and under, free; First Tuesdays free; Free for *Friends of the Bedford*, members of Diablo Regional Arts Association and ticket holders to events in the Leshner Center for the Arts (LCA) on ticketed date. First Tuesday of each month is free.

**Hours:** Tuesday—Sunday, Noon to 5:00 p.m. and evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. when there are productions in the LCA ([www.lesherartscenter.org](http://www.lesherartscenter.org) for calendar). The Gallery is closed on Mondays.

**Exhibition Tours:** Free docent-led tours for individuals every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. Group tours are available by appointment for \$45 for groups with fewer than 15 people or \$70 for groups of 15-30. Youth tours, with art project, are available for \$85 for groups up to 30. Tour fees include gallery admission. Call 925-295-1423 or email [gallerytours@bedfordgallery.org](mailto:gallerytours@bedfordgallery.org) for information.

Bedford Gallery is a program of the City of Walnut Creek.

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**“We were among the forefront of the people of that era who were pulling out of the tragedy of the Depression something beautiful and something lasting.”**

**JOSEPH DANYSH, ADMINISTRATOR  
OF THE WPA  
FEDERAL WORKS OF ART PROGRAM**

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Above: Ben Shahn, *We French Workers Warn You*, 1942, Private Collection

Left: Pele Delappe, *The Transients*, 1938, George Krevsky Gallery, San Francisco

*The American Scene: New Deal Art 1935-1943*

***The American Scene artists:***

Ida Abelman (1910-2002)  
Karl H. Bauman (1911-1984)  
Fred Becker (1913-2004)  
George Biddle (1885-1973)  
Julius Bloch (1888-1966)  
Helen Bruton (1898-1985)  
Beniamino Bufano (1898-1970)  
Pedro Cervantez (1915-1987)  
Chin Chee (1896-1966)  
Ralph Chesse (1900-1991)  
David P. Chun (1898-1989)  
June Dale  
Harold Malette Dean (1907-1975)  
Pele DeLappe (1916-2007)  
Marguerite Redman Dorgeloh (1890-1944)  
Marjorie Eakin (1910-1974)  
Millard Everingham (1912-1951)  
Claire Falkenstein (1908-1997)  
James Fitzgerald (1910-1973)  
Todros Geller (1889-1949)  
Harry Gottlieb (1895-1993)  
Blanch Grambs (1916-2010)  
Nils Gren (1893-1940)  
John Haley (1905-1991)  
Milton Hebal (b. 1917)  
John Langley Howard (1902-1999)  
Reuben Kadish (1913-1992)  
Dong Kingman (1911-2000)  
Jennie Lewis (1892-1944)  
Erle Loran (1905-1999)  
Jan Marfyak (1907-1990)  
John McCrady (1911-1968)  
Domenico Mortellito (1906-1994)  
Arthur G. Murphy (1906-1991)  
Justin Murray (1912-1987)  
Ann Rice O'Hanlon (1908-1998)  
Mine Okubo (1912-2001)  
Otis Oldfield (1890-1960)  
Emmy Lou Packard (1914-1998)  
Rondal Partridge (b. 1917)  
Salvatore Pinto (1905-1966)  
Alexis Angelo Podchernikoff (1912-1987)  
Gregorio Prestopino (1907-1984)  
Walter Quirt (1902-1968)  
Mildred Rackely (1906-1992)  
Anton Refregier (1906-1979)  
Andree Schafer Rexroth (1902-1940)  
Diego Rivera (1886-1957)  
Lala Eve Rivol (1913-1966)  
John Saccaro (1913-1981)  
Suzanne Scheuer (1898-1984)  
Jacques Schnier (1898-1988)  
Ben Shahn (1898-1969)  
Marian Hahn Simpson (1899-1978)  
Angela Sottosanti (1917-2004)  
Raphael Soyer (1899-1987)  
Joseph Sparks (1896-1975)  
Clay Edgar Spohn (1899-1977)  
Joseph Vogel (1911-1998)  
Herman Volz (1904-1990)  
Albert James Webb (1891-)  
Glenn Wessels (1895-1982)  
Bernard Zakheim (1896-1985)  
*and more*