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'Bay Area Now' at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

By Kenneth Baker

Works by painter **David Huffman**, video and conceptual artist Tony Labat, photographer Sean McFarland, sculptors Allison Smith and **Weston Teruya**, are among the highlights of Yerba Buena Center for the Arts' sixth triennial "Bay Area Now."

BAN6 is a visual arts exhibition that is buttressed by an extensive program of film, video and performing arts events.

The roster of performers includes composer/musicians Chris Brown and Carla Kihlstedt; and Marc Bamuthi Joseph, director of the Living Word Project, a theater company focused on post-hip-hop performance.

The entire program will be rooted in a novel monthly series of public conversations spearheaded by YBCA director Kenneth Foster, beginning Feb. 19 and continuing through June.

A second series of events running into the fall will grow out of the public conversations, planned to center on topics such as "From Produce to Production: New Traditions in Bay Area Food Culture," "From Grassroots to Netroots" and "The Customizable Body: The Present/Future of Identity."