

Don't Miss!

- **Bedford's Ask Me Tours (12:30 p.m.):**

July 1, 8, 15, 22,
29; Aug. 5, 12, 19,
26; Sept. 23, 30.

- **Free Tuesday admission to *The Skull Show*:**

July 1, Aug. 5.

- **Public Art Walking Tours (meet in front of Lesher Center @ 11 a.m.):**

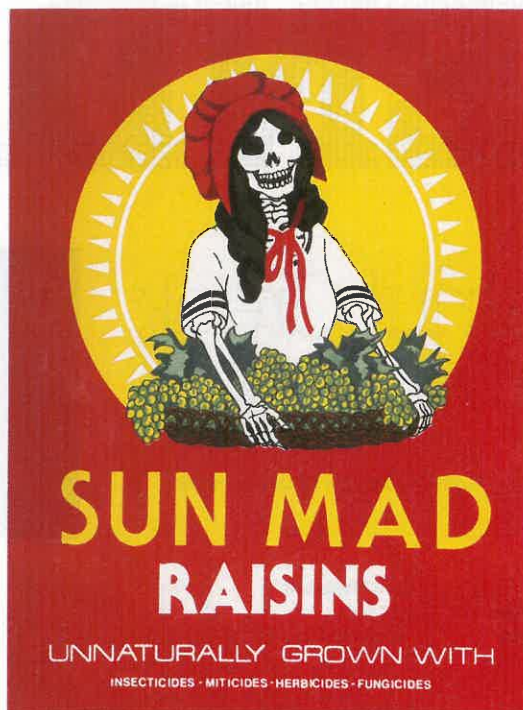
July 19, Aug. 16,
Sept. 20.

Schedule

WHEN
June 12-August 31

WHERE
Bedford Gallery

INFO
(925) 295-1417, or
bedfordgallery.org



The Skull Show

BEDFORD GALLERY WANTS ART LOVERS TO WRAP THEIR HEADS AROUND AN EXCITING NEW EXHIBIT.

By Gina Gotsill

From Renaissance society and legend to modern day skate art and fashion, skulls have inspired artists for thousands of years. It's the icon of the ages – cultures from every corner of the globe have used its imagery to communicate the essence of life, death, bravery, cool confidence... and foolishness. Through August 31, the Bedford Gallery explores the skull's staying power with *The Skull Show*, an exhibition featuring nearly 100 artists from around the world. Significant pieces include screenprints by Andy Warhol, ceramic pieces by Funk movement forerunners Robert Arneson and Richard Shaw, and black and white imagery by photojournalist Gordon Parks.

Curator Carrie Lederer says the show reminds us of a compelling truth: The skull is a global human portrait. As different as we all are, skulls are something we have in common.

The skull's power can be interpreted in countless ways. San Francisco artist Ester Hernandez leveraged its suggestion of death to make strong political and environmental statements in her 1982 screen print *Sun Mad*. A former San Joaquin Valley farmworker, Hernandez swapped the iconic Sun Maid raisin girl for a skull in a bonnet—a harbinger of what awaits workers and consumers exposed to toxic chemicals. The piece has been exhibited in museums around the world, with the exception of San Joaquin Valley, where it has been censored.

Danish artist Frodo Mikkelsen paired a skull with depictions of the country side where he was born in his mixed media, silver-plated sculpture, *My Jutland Childhood*.

Every day in 2007 Richmond, VA artist Noah Scalin posted an image of a skull—he fashioned many of his spontaneous artworks from everyday objects, including plastic soldiers, vegetables and paper. Humorous and clever, the Skull-a-Day project wasn't about violence or death, Scalin says.

"The project helped me to better see and appreciate the world around me," Scalin says, "and become much more deeply engaged with it."

On view through August 31.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: BEN VENOM; THE SKELETON IN THE CLOSET, 2013; HAND-MADE QUILT, BLEACHED DENIM, LEATHER, FABRIC, BATTING, THREAD, 37 INCHES; FRODO MIKKELSEN, MY JUTLAND CHILDHOOD... 2013, MIXED MEDIA AND SILVER, 10.6 X 5.3 X 8.3 INCHES, COURTESY OF MUNICH GALLERY, NEW YORK; BILL CLAPS, IT'S ALL DERIVATIVE, WARHOL'S SKULL, 2013, MIXED MEDIA, 12 X 16 INCHES; RACHEL CAUDWELL, NATURE'S SKULL, 2012, INK THEN DIGITALLY COLORED GICLEE PRINT, 17 X 21 INCHES

