

California Bear Flag Ontics
Sacramento's Second Saturday Art Walk
Saturday 12 October 2013 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

The Bear Flag Museum and the artist **Erik Bakke** are pleased to announce **California Bear Flag Ontics**--a collaborative presentation of artifacts from the Bear Flag Museum and performances and installations organized by Erik Bakke.

ontic |'äntik| adjective, Philosophy
of or relating to entities and the facts about them; relating to real as opposed to phenomenal existence.

antics |'antiks| plural noun
foolish, outrageous, or amusing behavior: *the antics of our political parties.*¹

This premiere presentation of **California Bear Flag Ontics** will be held on Saturday 12 October 2013 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. as an integral part of Sacramento's Second Saturday Art Walk. All **California Bear Flag Ontics** events will occur at **Cuilla Brothers Auto Body Shop at 2413 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816 (between 24th and 25th Streets)**. For more information contact Bill Trinkle at (916) 396-9459 or bearflagmuseum@aol.com or Erik Bakke at erik@erikbakke.com.

The Bear Flag Museum, www.BearFlagMuseum.org, is participating in this celebration by exhibiting some of the flags and other Bear Flag related items from its collection and presenting information about the collection as a whole. The Bear Flag Museum is a nonprofit virtual museum devoted to collecting in one location all things related to the California Bear Flag--current flags, historical flags, variations on the flag, Bear Flag related objects, graphics, and photographs, and written materials about Bear Flag law, history, and trivia. The Bear Flag is an iconic art work representative of the past, present and future of the State of California and its cultures. The Bear Flag Museum is proud to participate with Erik Bakke in bringing our California Bear Flag to life in this collaborative presentation.

Artist Erik Bakke has invited performers with an interest in the intersection of art and the future histories of California culture who will draw attention to the Bear Flag's ontic presence--how does it exist and how can it exist given a present day California that would be unrecognizable if not incomprehensible to the original flag's painters and that will be equally foreign to generations of a not too distant future. Bakke's original bear flag performance, *The First California Bear Flag with Erik Bakke*, took place at the Royal NoneSuch Gallery in Oakland, California in 2011. The press for that event announced the action: "Participants will take an instructional on painting the original California "bad painting"--the first California Bear Flag. Those in the audience will be given material with which they can make their own versions. Particular attention will be given to the roughness of execution of the original flag and the "mistakes" it contained. Excerpts from Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo's history of California will also be read." Please see erikbakke.com for more information.

¹ Apple Inc. Dictionary Version 2.2.1 (143.1)

Here in Sacramento Bakke will perform a new version of *The First California Bear Flag*; invited performers will challenge the audience with contemporary performance actions; and various installations will put California's past in a new light and suggest future histories.

Dino Dinco is one of the invited performers. D/NO D/NCO is a performance art curator, filmmaker, theater director, TV commercial ghostwriter and multidisciplinary artist. Dinco is currently writing a book on performance art practice, scholarship and thinking on the West Coast of North America. He is also organizing an exhibition concerning contemporary performance art practice of The Americas and Latin American diaspora with Alejandra Herrera and Selene Preciado. Please see dinodinco.com for more information.

Rafa Esparza is another invited performer. Rafa Esparza was born, raised, and is currently living in Los Angeles. Esparza is a multidisciplinary artist. His practice ranges in medium and includes installation, sculpture, drawing, painting, and most predominantly, live performance. Woven into Esparza's bodies of work are his interests in history, personal narratives, and kinship. He is inspired by his own relationship to colonization and the disrupted genealogies that come forth as a result of colonization. Esparza has performed in a variety of spaces ranging from community engaged places such as AIDS Project Los Angeles to galleries including Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, Highways Performance Space, REDCAT, Human Resources, and SOMArts and, most recently, to public sites throughout the city of L.A. Please see rafaesparza.com for more information.

The general public will be invited to participate by re-imagining the Bear Flag and reconfiguring it to reflect their conceptions of their California--materials will be provided for this hands-on experience.

This is the first collaboration between The Bear Flag Museum and Erik Bakke. We welcome Sacramento to the re-envisioning of the art and meaning of California's Bear Flag.

The creation of the original bear flag took place during a guerilla action by revolutionary actors of uncertain affiliation--in June 1846 a group of less than thirty-five men took over the quiet pueblo of Sonoma, issued a proclamation of independence, and created and raised the first Bear Flag (a crude effort with a poorly drawn bear). Mariano Guadalupe Vallejo, the leading Californio citizen of Sonoma, was taken captive, and removed from Sonoma to a location a mere 1/4 mile from this *California Bear Flag Ontics* event, Sutter's Fort. Unknown to the Bear Flaggers, the Mexican American War had already begun. The Bear Flag was replaced by the 28 star U.S. Flag about a month later, on July 9, 1846. On September 9, 1850 California became a state. During the remainder of the 1800s, the Bear Flag was honored as a symbol of California's pioneering spirit, and then, on February 3, 1911, the Bear Flag became the state flag of California. Since its invention[creation], the Bear Flag has been copied, reformed, and reclaimed by those adopting and adapting its imagery and associations to fit the times. Officially, California's Bear Flag has defined specifications, one could say restrictions, but unofficially countless individuals and groups have made the flag their own by making altered versions. The Bear Flag is alive in the spirit of its people.

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