

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Photos courtesy of Sue Mark

## ART UP at Kala Gallery: Print Public Open House – Saturday

On Saturday, March 11 from noon – 4 p.m., Kala Art Institute is hosting an Open House in honor of Print Public, its current exhibition. And within this show is a “Don’t Miss” art installation by cultural preservationist Sue Mark, which tantalizingly displays a portion of the private collection of Ruth and Eugene Lesartemay, one of the first African-American families to move to Berkeley – in 1929.

In the 1940s, the Lesartemay’s grew concerned about the absence of Blacks in school curriculum, so began collecting photographs and memorabilia of their neighbors and friends. At first, they kept the collection beneath their beds at their home on the 1300 block of Hearst St. By the 1960s, the collection was formalized as the East Bay Negro Historical Society and moved to Beth Eden Baptist Church. In the

1980s, it was housed by the Golden Gate Library on San Pablo Avenue. Since then, the collection has become the basis of the African American Museum & Library in Oakland.

History buffs may be frustrated by this installation, because the presentation is so compelling that one is tempted to dig into the materials, which are original. The good news is that the artist, Sue Mark, as well

as Mark Lesartemay, the grandson of Ruth and Eugene, are often present to discuss the stories within this incredible story that is the premise of this art installation.

Kala Gallery is located at 2990 San Pablo Ave. For more info, call (510) 841-7000. To learn more about the artist, go to [marksearch.org](http://marksearch.org)