

Contact:
Stephanie King
Public Relations Manager
707-226-5991 x34
stephanie@dirosaart.org
Images available on request

dirosaart.org
F 707.255.8934
T 707.226.5991



5200 Sonoma Highway Napa, California 94559

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

di Rosa presents group exhibition, *Tongue-in-Cheek*, opening May 9

NAPA, Calif., April 2015—The legacy of humor in Bay Area art is explored through a new generation of artists in the exhibition *Tongue-in-Cheek*, on view May 9 through July 19, 2015, at di Rosa. The exhibition features work in a wide range of media by regional artists **Tammy Rae Carland**, **Jonn Herschend**, **Bessma Khalaf**, **Jennie Ottinger**, **Kate Rhoades**, **Chris Sollars**, **Lindsey White**, and **Wonderment Consortium**, an arts collective composed of artists **Packard Jennings**, **Steuart Pittman**, and **Scott Vermeire**.

Like the San Francisco Funk artists of the 1960s and 70s, the artists in *Tongue-in-Cheek* employ humor as a critical tool to explore complex social themes and illuminate the follies of daily life. Ranging from art-related satire to visual sight gags, their varied approaches teeter between playful and dark to examine contemporary culture with a comedic eye:

Tammy Rae Carland, Kate Rhoades, and Jennie Ottinger explore social anxieties and power dynamics generated within and outside of the art world; Lindsey White, Bessma Khalaf, and Chris Sollars challenge conventional perceptions by presenting the unexpected; and Jonn Herschend and Wonderment Consortium highlight absurdity within the mundane.

"Humor in art often gets a bad rap for its simplistic take on complex circumstances, yet these works argue the opposite," said Curator Amy Owen. "By confronting the troubling aspects of contemporary life through the liberating and accessible act of laughter, we are able to more deeply examine the nuances of culture in a way that goes beyond a mere punch line."

Tongue-in-Cheek is on view May 9 through July 19, 2015, in the Gatehouse Gallery at di Rosa (5200 Sonoma Hwy in Napa). Hours: Wed-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.



Image: Kate Rhoades, *Required Skimming* (based on *Forgetting the Art World* by Pamela M. Lee), 2014. Video still. Courtesy of the artist.

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PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 6-8 p.m.

Opening Reception: *Tongue-in-Cheek*

Free, with a wine and cheese reception (Members and press preview: 5-6 p.m.)

Saturday, May 9, 2015, 4-5 p.m.

In Conversation: Peter Saul

\$10 General / \$5 Members; [Tickets](#) are limited.

Artist Peter Saul makes a special visit to the Bay Area to discuss his work in conversation with Jordan Stein, co-curator of di Rosa's concurrent exhibition, [Relax in Electric Chair: Peter Saul at di Rosa](#) (March 4-July 26, 2015). Those in attendance are invited to join the Members Preview of *Tongue-in-Cheek* held immediately after from 5-6 p.m.

Saturday, July 11, 2015, 4-5 p.m.

Artist Performance: Wonderment Consortium

\$10 General / \$5 Members

The Oakland-based collective Wonderment Consortium, comprised of artists Packard Jennings, Steuart Pittman and Scott Vermeire, present their ongoing project *Live Radio Auction*.

Select Saturdays (to be announced), 2015, 2-4 p.m.

Free-Form Open Mic with Wonderment Consortium's Scott Vermeire

Scott Vermeire brings his Free-Form Open Mic platform to di Rosa's Gatehouse Gallery over the course of select Saturday afternoons during the run of *Tongue-in-Cheek*. Join us for a cup of coffee and take to the mic to share anything from your favorite piece of poetry to that new acoustic song you've been working on.

Visit diRosaArt.org for more details.

ABOUT DI ROSA

Located on 217 acres in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, di Rosa houses the foremost collection of contemporary Bay Area art, with nearly 2,000 works by 800 artists. A wide range of styles, media, and subject matter provide an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. For more information, hours, and tour schedules, visit diRosaArt.org.

CONTACT

For image requests or to schedule an interview, contact:

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