

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

di Rosa opens up its collection in “Based on a True Story”

Exhibition reveals rarely seen personal side of Bay Area art

NAPA, Calif., Sept. 2016 – The relationships between art and art history, curator and exhibition, collector and artist, teacher and student, lover and friend are all explored in a new exhibition at di Rosa, *Based on a True Story: Highlights from the di Rosa Collection*, on view in the Gatehouse Gallery from October 26, 2016, through May 28, 2017. Drawn exclusively from di Rosa’s holdings, the exhibition illuminates the hidden stories and connections of Northern California art history spanning the last six decades.



“The di Rosa collection not only serves as a rich and vital record of Northern California art since the late 1950s, it captures the distinctive spirit of the area and its artists,” said Curator Amy Owen. “*Based on a True Story* illustrates this ethos through a number of key encounters.”

The exhibition will present never-before seen letters and ephemera from di Rosa’s archives alongside pivotal works representing the major movements in Northern California art history such as Bay Area Assemblage, Figurative, Funk, ceramic sculpture, and Conceptual art, providing an intimate look into the artistic legacy of the region.

“This is a rare opportunity to experience the personal dynamics that shaped the artistic production of an era and from a region that impacted the course of art history,” said Executive Director Robert Sain. “Amy Owen has done a masterful job organizing this unprecedented exhibition inviting viewers to emotionally partake in the complex, rich stories behind the art.”

Originally developed by collector Rene di Rosa (1919–2010), the di Rosa collection features the region’s most noteworthy modern and contemporary artists. Included in the exhibition are works by Robert Arneson, Joan Brown, Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Roy De Forest, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Viola Frey, Wally Hedrick, Lynn Hershman Leeson, Robert Hudson, David Ireland, Tom Marioni, Ron Nagle, Bruce Nauman, Manuel Neri, Dennis Oppenheim, Peter Saul, Peter Voukos, H. C. Westermann, and William T. Wiley, among others.

Based on a True Story follows an extensive curatorial review of the collection and anticipates a major reinstallation of di Rosa’s Main Gallery in summer 2017 which will feature additional works from di Rosa’s holdings.

Based on a True Story: Highlights from the di Rosa Collection is on view October 26, 2016–May 28, 2017 at di Rosa (5200 Sonoma Hwy, Napa). Hours: Wed-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 admission. A complimentary opening reception will be held on Nov. 19, from 4 to 6 p.m.

Image: Joan Brown, *The Long Journey*, 1981. Enamel on canvas, 78 x 96 in. di Rosa Collection, Napa.

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RELATED EVENTS:

Saturday, November 19, 2016, 4 to 6 p.m.

Opening Reception

Featuring a wine and cheese reception. Free and open to the public.

Additional public programs will be announced at dirosaart.org.

ABOUT DI ROSA:

di Rosa is a catalyst for transformative experiences with contemporary art of Northern California. A nonprofit contemporary art center, di Rosa presents dynamic exhibitions and educational programs for all ages and houses the foremost collection of contemporary Bay Area art in the world. 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. di Rosa features three galleries, a sculpture park, a 35-acre lake, and a wildlife preserve, all located on 217 scenic acres in Napa Valley's famed Carneros region. For more information, visit dirosaart.org.

CONTACT:

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