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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

di Rosa reopens following Napa earthquake

NAPA, Calif., Aug. 28, 2014—di Rosa reopened and resumed its standard hours of operation Wednesday in the wake of a 6.1 magnitude earthquake, the Bay Area’s largest in 25 years, that struck Napa on Sunday, August 22. The museum was the closest art institution to the quake at 4.5 miles from the epicenter. di Rosa did not sustain any structural damage, although it is estimated that 60 works in the collection were affected, with about a dozen beyond repair.

Located on over 200 acres in the Carneros region of the Napa Valley, di Rosa is considered the most significant collection of contemporary Bay Area art in the world, with nearly 2,000 works by 800 artists housed across three gallery buildings and an outdoor sculpture park. Detailed inspections of the buildings and property after the quake found no evidence of damage. This may in part be attributed to the property’s geologic foundation, which is sited on the rocky slope of Milliken Peak, the highest point at the southern end of Napa County. In addition, di Rosa’s Gatehouse Gallery and Main Gallery were built to modern seismic standards, opening less than 20 years ago, and di Rosa’s 125-year-old Historic Residence, a Napa County Landmark, received a seismic upgrade in the late 90s.

Although assessment of the damage to the collection remains ongoing, preliminary condition reports suggest that about 10% of the artwork on view sustained some level of damage from the quake. However, the majority of these works have been deemed repairable, with many requiring only minor restoration work. Approximately 12 works are considered complete losses. Among the losses are two of the nearly 200 outdoor sculptures on the site—one stone and one ceramic—which had horizontal elements that broke due to stresses under the ground. di Rosa is in the process of contacting the artists whose works were affected.

Executive Director Kathryn Reasoner cites the preventative measures that were put in place before the quake for reducing the severity of artwork damage. “Ultimately we are relieved to see how well our newer installation methods held up and how much work remained in place. I am proud of the professional methods employed by di Rosa staff in recent years that clearly played a role in protecting the artwork from severe damage.”

Through swift action by the maintenance and curatorial staff, di Rosa reopened on August 27, with only a small portion of the site—the cellar and second floor of the Historic Residence—temporary closed for further cleanup. The restoration of the damaged artwork will take time and di Rosa has set up a fund to help aid in the repairs. To donate, visit bit.ly/diRosaRecoveryFund. di Rosa is located at 5200 Sonoma Highway in Napa. For more information, hours, and tour schedules, visit diRosaArt.org.

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.

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