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*Images available on request*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ***The Presence of the Present: Teresa Baker, Liam Everett, Leslie Shows***

November 1, 2014 to January 25, 2015

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Nov. 1, 6–8 p.m., Free (Members Preview 5 p.m.)

**ARTISTS' PANEL DISCUSSION:** Dec. 11, 7 p.m., \$10 (\$5 Members)

NAPA, Calif., October 2014—Through composition, texture, and scale, three Bay Area artists challenge the traditional notions of the painted surface in ***The Presence of the Present: Teresa Baker, Liam Everett, Leslie Shows***. Opening November 1 at **di Rosa**, the group exhibition draws attention to the tactile qualities of painted works and the engaging presence of these works when experienced through physical observation.

In a time when digital images flood daily interactions, Baker, Everett, and Shows represent a new generation of painters testing the boundaries of painting while refuting the allure of virtual in favor of real. "Despite their adherence to the wall, the works in this exhibition exude a powerful presence and theatricality to capture our attention in much the same way the seductiveness of a screen works to distract us," explained di Rosa Curator Amy Owen. "Baker, Everett, and Shows seek to offer a more complex and satisfying experience through the material and physical attributes of their work, which are otherwise unattainable through the glass matrix of a laptop or smartphone."

Each of the artists grapple with this theme in different ways.

**Teresa Baker** paints, tears, drapes, and stretches scraps of felt, paper, and other materials to create works that teeter between painting and sculpture. Similar to the textile works of Richard Tuttle, Baker's creations play with scale and the spatial relationship between the works and the flat surface from which they hang.

**Liam Everett** laboriously adds and subtracts multiple layers of paint using an array of tools including alcohol, salt, steel wool, and sandpaper to create highly textured, luminous paintings. Everett's oversized, shimmering surfaces hint to the artist's elaborate process of erasure and encourage an exploration of their layers.

**Leslie Shows** uses dense and unruly materials such as crushed glass, shards of Plexiglas, and synthetic rubber to produce lustrous surfaces that invite viewers to graze over shifts in color and texture. Shows's recent interest in industrial casts and molds materializes through a complex collage technique that straddles abstraction and representation.



Leslie Shows, *Coupler*, 2014. Courtesy of the artist and Haines Gallery, San Francisco.

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Together their works insist on the importance of material surfaces experienced in real space and offer a visual engagement far beyond what can be seen on screen.

***The Presence of the Present: Teresa Baker, Liam Everett, and Leslie Shows** opens with a free public reception on November 1 from 6–8 p.m. and will remain on view in di Rosa’s Gatehouse Gallery through January 25, 2015.*

**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 [www.diRosaArt.org](http://www.diRosaArt.org).

For image requests or to schedule an interview, contact:  
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