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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

di Rosa hosts Robert Kinmont retrospective, opening reception Nov. 7

NAPA, Calif., Sept. 30, 2015—di Rosa presents the first Bay Area solo exhibition by Sonoma-based conceptual artist **Robert Kinmont** in over 45 years. *Robert Kinmont: Trying to understand where I grew up*, on view October 31–January 24, explores the interdependency of man and nature through works in photography, sculpture, and video. Kinmont came to prominence in the late 1960s and '70s before stepping away from the art world for over three decades. The exhibition provides a unique opportunity to view a selection of Kinmont's early works with those following his reemergence in 2005.



Born in Los Angeles in 1937, Kinmont spent his early years outside the rural town of Bishop, Calif., before eventually settling in Sonoma, his home of over 30 years. *Trying to understand where I grew up* highlights his deep ties to the desert environment of his youth. The artist's work and process have continuously been informed by the topography and ecosystems that surround him, evident in the recurrent use of natural elements such as wood, dirt, copper, and water.

"This exhibition reinforces Kinmont's historical relevance as an important precursor to major movements in California art history," said Curator Amy Owen. "The artist has often been aligned with contemporaries such as Ed Ruscha, Bruce Nauman, and John Baldessari, but his work derives solely from an inextricable bond with California."

In the 1970s, Kinmont took a 30-year hiatus from his art practice to study Zen Buddhism and work as a carpenter. The exhibition profiles his prolific art-making periods before and after this break, including some works exhibited for the first time and works from the di Rosa collection. Kinmont's ongoing relationship with the natural world remains at the forefront, from his seminal *8 Natural Handstands* (1969/2005), a series of black-and-white photographs capturing the artist balancing upside down in various outdoor settings, to his more recent *Log Covered with Advice* (2014), a large-scale sculpture with delicate cursive etched into a tree trunk.

"Kinmont's intimate connection to the California landscape makes this presentation of his work particularly potent in the context of di Rosa," said Owen. "His work—often warm, humorous, and full of the immediacy of life—garners an accessibility for viewers of all generations."

Robert Kinmont: Trying to understand where I grew up is on view October 31, 2015–January 24, 2016 at di Rosa (5200 Sonoma Hwy, Napa). Hours: Wed-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Image: Robert Kinmont, *8 Natural Handstands* (detail), 1969/2005. 9 silver gelatin prints, each 8 x 8 in. Courtesy of the artist and Alexander and Bonin Gallery, New York.

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5200 Sonoma Highway Napa, California 94559

RELATED EVENTS:

Saturday, November 7, 2015, 4-6 p.m.

Opening Reception

Free, with a wine and cheese reception

Additional events TBA. Visit dirosaart.org for more details.

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Robert Kinmont was born in Los Angeles in 1937 and grew up in Bishop, CA. He received his BFA from San Francisco Art Institute in 1970 and his MFA from the University of California, Davis, in 1971. From 1968 to 1981, he exhibited at the San Francisco Museum of Art; the de Young Museum, San Francisco; the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, among others. During this time Kinmont also held teaching positions at Ontario College of Art, San Francisco Academy of Art, University of California, Berkeley, and San Francisco Art Institute. In 1976, he founded and taught at Coyote, an art school in Bishop, CA. From 1981 to 2004, Kinmont studied Buddhism and worked as a carpenter. He returned to his artistic practice in 2005, and has since exhibited in several group exhibitions including *State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970* co-organized by the Berkeley Art Museum and the Orange County Museum of Art; *Ends of the Earth: Art of the Land to 1974* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and *Afterlife: A Constellation*, curated by Julie Ault as part of the 2014 Whitney Biennial. He has also had solo exhibitions at Alexander and Bonin, New York (2009, 2011) and RaebervonStenglin, Zurich (2012, 2015). He lives and works in Sonoma, CA.

ABOUT DI ROSA:

Located on 217 acres in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, di Rosa celebrates the art and artists of Northern California through enriching exhibitions and art education programs for all ages. The di Rosa collection features nearly 2,000 works by 800 regional artists working from the 1950s to the present. A wide range of styles, media, and subject matter provides an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. For more information, visit dirosaart.org.

CONTACT:

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