

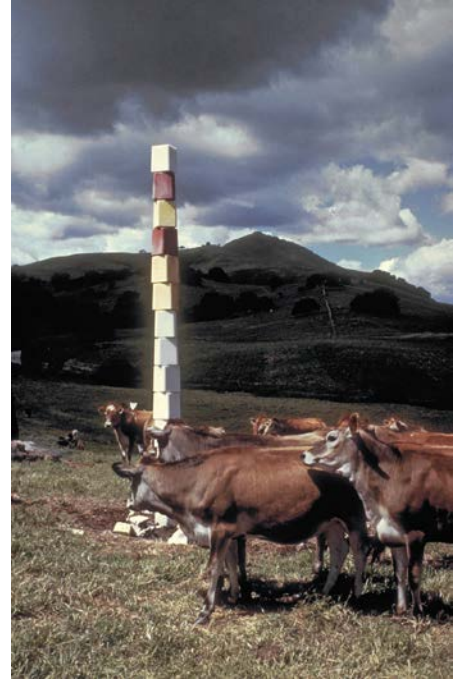
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Paul Kos solo exhibition to be held at di Rosa, opening reception April 23

NAPA, Calif., Mar. 9, 2016—A new exhibition at di Rosa explores the work of seminal Bay Area conceptual artist **Paul Kos** (b. 1942) and reflects on his longstanding engagement with landscape. On view starting April 16, *Equilibrium: A Paul Kos Survey* features sculpture, film, video, photography, and works on paper, many drawn from the artist's personal collection and the di Rosa holdings, including works that have not been shown for over 40 years. A complimentary public reception will be held on April 23 from 4–6 p.m., and the exhibition will remain on view in di Rosa's Gatehouse Gallery through October 2.

Based in San Francisco and the Sierras, Kos began his artistic career studying painting in the 1960s at the San Francisco Art Institute, but soon began working in sculpture and a diverse range of media. Considered a leading figure of Bay Area conceptual art, Kos was among the first artists in Northern California to create performance-based film and video works as well as participatory installations.



*Equilibrium* begins with Kos' artistic breakthrough in the late 1960s when he was commissioned to create outdoor sculptures on the di Rosa property in Napa. The experience signaled a major shift for the artist toward working with materials in relation to a site. For his ephemeral installation *Lot's Wife* (1968–1969), for example, Kos erected pillars of salt blocks on di Rosa's upper property for then-roaming Jersey cattle to slowly lick away. Documentation of this work will be on view, in addition to Kos' *rEVOLUTION* (1970), a double Super 8 film and video installation last exhibited in 1971 which documents a shotgun-based performance by Kos at di Rosa.

"Kos' history with the di Rosa property has become influential in shaping di Rosa's commitment to supporting the production of new site-oriented and performance-based work by contemporary artists," co-curator Amy Owen said. Recent site-specific commissions at di Rosa include works by artists such as Desirée Holman, Floris Schönfeld, and Richard T. Walker. Guest co-curator Tanya Zimbaro adds, "Early on, Kos found a freedom in making art in relation to where he went and his own life activities. His use of simple materials and openness to chance discoveries has served as an inspiration to many others."

Kos' lifelong affinity for the land stems from the artist's early experiences in the desert plains and mountains of his native Wyoming. Annual trips in the late 1960s and '70s to revisit Wyoming, and later the Sierra Nevada mountains, offered an outdoor studio space where Kos recorded several performances and began exploring natural materials, such as salt, fire, and ice. As seen throughout the exhibition, Kos often balances or pairs opposing elements, such as in the video *Ice Makes Fire* (1974/2004), where Kos spins a block of ice in the lid of a cooking pot to form a convex lens, catching the sunlight and igniting the kindling below.

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Additional works by Kos spanning several decades are accessible by [guided tour](#) of di Rosa's permanent collection, including the recently restored site-specific installations *Zizzi Va* (1994), a pétanque court, and *Tunnel/Chapel* (1997, with Isabelle Sorrell), an underground structure showcasing Kos's video masterpiece *Chartres Bleu* (1982–1986), a recreation of the passage of light through a stained glass window from Chartres Cathedral in France using 27 television screens.

*Equilibrium: A Paul Kos Survey* is on view April 16–October 2, 2016, at di Rosa (5200 Sonoma Hwy, Napa). Hours: Wed-Sun, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. The exhibition is co-organized by Amy Owen, curator at di Rosa, and Tanya Zimbardo, guest curator and the assistant curator of media arts at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

**Image:** Paul Kos, *Lot's Wife*, 1969. Salt, cattle; installation at Winery Lake, di Rosa, Napa. Photo courtesy of the artist.

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#### RELATED EVENTS:

**Saturday, April 23, 2016, 4–6 p.m.**

##### Opening Reception

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

**Saturday, May 21, 2016, time TBA**

##### Curators' Walk Through and Pétanque Tournament with Paul Kos

Join curators Amy Owen and Tanya Zimbardo for a walk through of the exhibition followed by an opportunity to accompany Paul Kos and special guests in a public tournament activating Kos' recently-restored pétanque court on the di Rosa grounds, *Zizzi Va* (1994). Also known as Boules, pétanque is an outdoor game that originated in France and is similar to bocce. Ticket information to be announced.

**Saturday, June 25, 2016, 4–6 p.m.**

##### Curators in Conversation

*Equilibrium* co-curators Amy Owen and Tanya Zimbardo join Constance Lewallen, adjunct curator at the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, in conversation to discuss Paul Kos' diverse body of work and engagement with the natural landscape. \$10 general / \$5 members.

#### ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Born in 1942 in Rock Springs, Wyoming, Paul Kos studied at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. before relocating to the Bay Area to attend the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), where he received a B.F.A. (1965) and an M.F.A. (1967), both in painting. A highly influential educator, Kos taught conceptual art at the University of Santa Clara (1969–1977) and performance and video (now New Genres department) at SFAI (1978–2008). Kos has been the subject of numerous solo exhibitions including *Everything Matters: Paul Kos, A Retrospective* (2003), organized by the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, which traveled to the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Grey Art Gallery, New York University; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego. He has been featured in group exhibitions at such venues as the CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco; Guangdong Times Museum, Guangzhou, China; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Neuer Berliner Kunstverein, Berlin; Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, California; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; among many others. Kos is represented by Anglim Gilbert Gallery, San Francisco, and Galerie Georges-Philippe & Nathalie Vallois, Paris. He lives and works in San Francisco and the Sierras.

#### ABOUT DI ROSA:

di Rosa is a catalyst for transformative experiences with contemporary art of Northern California. The museum offers a variety of exhibitions and educational programs for all ages and houses the foremost collection of Bay Area art in the world, with nearly 2,000 works by 800 regional artists. 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. Located on over 200 acres in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, the property includes three separate galleries, a sculpture park, a 35-acre lake, and a wildlife preserve. For more information, visit [dirosaart.org](#).

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