

LIVING IN

NOT

UN CERTAIN

STILL:



TIMES



Part 2

A Note from the Director

We are experiencing a dangerous time in our country with a political environment where basic facts are disputed, fundamental truth is questioned, lying is normalized and unethical behavior is ignored, excused or rewarded.

-James B. Comey, A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership, 2018

Never did I dream that a quotation from a fired FBI director would be such a startlingly apt introduction to part 2 of di Rosa's landmark exhibition *Be Not Still:* Living in Uncertain Times.

In this round, truth, understanding, and hope are pursued through the commissioned artists as they find persuasive new ways to present ideas that affect us all. Victor Cartagena shows us the face of immigration in Napa Valley; Ranu Mukherjee asks us to consider the broader context of societal health and well-being; Lava Thomas inspires us with a heightened sense of solidarity and resilience; and Lexa Walsh explores the potency of coming together through assembly. As in part 1, the projects are a launch pad for a rich roster of educational activities for all ages.

The value of this long-term, two-part exhibition is that it allows more voices to partake in the conversation about the concerns of our time, and in that process, further demonstrate why art matters. For di Rosa this is essential to our quest to be a blueprint for a twenty-first-century arts organization that has relevance and impact.

I am confident that an encounter with this second part of *Be Not Still* will provoke, entice, and open minds to the reality of our present moment.

Robert Sain Executive Director

Introduction

In the foreword to her recently reissued book Hope in the Dark: Untold Histories, Wild Possibilities, famed Bay Area author Rebecca Solnit offers a lens on the concept of uncertainty I find instructive—one that equates the state of being uncertain with a sense of hope. Solnit makes clear that this is not to be mistaken for an overly optimistic point of view—a naive conviction that everything will be okay. Rather, she states, "Hope locates itself in the premises that we don't know what will happen and that in the spaciousness of uncertainty is room to act. When you recognize uncertainty, you recognize that you may be able to influence the outcomes-vou alone or in concert with a few dozen or several million others."

It is in this spirit that Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times was conceived. It is an exhibition as a call to action-not only for the artists invited to participate, but also for di Rosa as a cultural institution, and hopefully for visitors as well. Presented in two parts throughout 2018, this multi-gallery presentation explores the current social and political atmosphere through artist-driven inquiries. Participating artists were invited to create new work and to utilize di Rosa's collection to engage in a pressing topic of their choosing. Drawing upon the regional and global relevance of the collection, the exhibition emphasizes our longstanding institutional focus on supporting living artists of our region

and sparking new ways of thinking about the world.

Part 1 of the exhibition saw new projects by Dodie Bellamy & Kevin Killian, Allison Smith, Rigo 23, and Ala Ebtekar that looked back on history to reveal what it can tell us about our present moment, specifically dealing with issues of surveillance, white nationalism, American exceptionalism, and citizenship, respectively.

Part 2 continues this impulse through an incisive roster of new projects:

In Gallery 1, Lexa Walsh responds to the notion of assembly through a presentation of works (mostly) from di Rosa's collection. Marches, vigils, rituals, and protests are evoked through creative groupings of figurative objects on the walls and floor.

In Gallery 2, Victor Cartagena addresses immigration through a multimedia installation referencing lives lived in the shadows and the oppression certain communities face in the contemporary political climate. Lending them visibility as an act of protest, Cartagena highlights their resilience and courage.

Ranu Mukherjee explores the topic of health and how societal events impact our well-being—including the relationship between humans and the planet as a whole—through a multifaceted installation combining choreography, animation, line, and color. The project includes the production of a new film shot at di Rosa in collaboration

with Hope Mohr Dance, responding to the recent wildfires.

Lava Thomas engages the topic of solidarity through a dynamic installation comprised of hundreds of suspended pink tambourines covered with various media. The instruments serve as a metaphor for praise and protest, while their immersive tethering is emblematic of the power of collective resilience and hope.

Selected works from the di Rosa collection situated in the hallway of Gallery 2 speak directly to the themes of the three gallery installations. Works by Jonathan Barbieri, Judy Dater, and Mildred Howard, some never before presented to the public, draw out the historical and ongoing complexities of the topics addressed nearby.

A thread running throughout each of these installations is an awareness that the retelling of history, specifically excavating a shared spirit of resilience, moves us toward the future. We have in fact endured unfathomable hardships many times before. In a moment when we are tested daily by an onslaught of catastrophic events both near and far-and threats to our democracy, our environment, our truths, our privacy, and our lives have become normalized-we are reminded of our individual and collective arit built up over time, our capacity to resist, reclaim, and recover. In turn, hope comes to the fore.

We need only look to the very recent past for instances of our capacity for collective assembly and change: the revolutionary #TimesUp and #MeToo movements, which have upended public conversations about gender equality and violence around the world; the student-led March for Our Lives demonstration in support of tighter gun control, which spawned more than eight hundred affiliated events around the country and the world; and the unveiling of

the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama, which acknowledges the nearly 4,400 black individuals who have been lynched and never named in public. Each of these has demanded a reckoning regarding abhorrent atrocities of the past—a reckoning that can only gain strength and momentum with each passing day. As Solnit insists in her book, our hope in these uncertain times, indeed our resilience, is in fact our power.

Our goal for *Be Not Still* is to create space for artists and viewers alike to produce new ways of thinking, seeing, and understanding the world and our place within it. We believe that culture plays a vital role in transforming society, that art has power and carries accumulative meaning, and that together we have the ability to connect the dots, confront the past, and inspire transformation. Our individual actions may seem small, but collectively, and over time, we can enact change.

-Amy Owen, Curator

Lexa Walsh: Assembly

Assembling the Choreography of Protest

Lexa Walsh

Gathering is a human impulse, especially in historical episodes of crisis. The impulse to gather was ignited over the last year by powerful instances of political discussion, dissent, ritual, and self-care. Bodies inhabiting and interrupting space are key to many important forms of protest, both contemporary and historic. The sea of participants at the Women's Marches, the blocking of troubling artworks, die-ins, sit-ins, secret meetings, and strategic policing lines all involve both improvised and choreographed actions.

As guest curator of an exhibition within part 2 of Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times, Lutilize, and perhaps even instrumentalize, the di Rosa collection to evoke the choreographies of protest. This large selection of figurative sculptural and twodimensional works become a cast of characters—indeed, a rowdy crew representing contemporary, recognizable (and alas, also universal and ancient) gathering forms that manifest as protest, procession, rally, ritual, and riot, which I in turn both explore and exploit. I have chosen a vast array of sculptural works and ephemera to play the roles of participants, and portraits to play the roles of witnesses. Many of these portraits, either looking at us or purposefully ignoring us, have a theatrical presence. Their intimate, unconventional, ahistorical arrangements encourage us to experience them in a new light. In the spirit of Rene di Rosa, this playful installation looks seriously at the past, present, and future of politically inspired human convening.

Collectors and Collections

Rene di Rosa collected what he loved, starting with works by friends and colleagues. I am both an artist and a collector myself, and started collecting while a student of **Viola Frey** at CCAC (now California College of the Arts), trading early works among my cohort. My collection is much smaller, but it too is an eclectic mix of pieces by Bay Area artists, most of whom are friends, many of whom are emerging (and therefore affordable). Like Rene, I mix ephemera, folk art, and fine art.

I have inserted into the presentation some pieces from my own collection that seemed like natural participants in a dialogue with the di Rosa collection. These include **Nathaniel Parsons**'s luscious sculptural painting *Self Portrait*, *Hot Spring* (2012); **Jenifer Wofford**'s *Boy with a Pearl Mouthguard* (*After Vermeer*) (2016), which captures local basketball star Steph Curry like a saint steeped in Western art history, while reminding us that athletes are some the most vocal activists of our time; **Terry Fury**'s *Michelle* (2008), which was created just before the second most memorable election of my lifetime; and **Christine Shields'**s screenprint *Prince Rojo* (2014), depicting a San Francisco Mission District mainstay from my coming-of-age in the 1990s that both honors his life and expresses nostalgia for a time before San Francisco's recent changes.

Like Rene, I chose not to include standard wall labels, in order to encourage the viewer to first experience each work without judgment or an assessment of value. Though I made my decisions based on form, I opted for works that, to me, represent the collection as a whole. There are "good" and "bad" works, "important" works and less memorable ones (I always question the value the art market and art history place on art). Yes, they are made by mostly white male artists, and there are many works by **Robert Arneson**. Within the constraints of my theme and through my lens, the collection reveals not only what is there, but also what isn't. And of course we cannot ignore the devastating North Bay wildfires of 2017, and their impact on the collection. Some wonderful works I had hoped to show were damaged or removed from the collection due to the fires.

I knew some of the artists in this collection familiarly, like Viola Frey and fellow CCAC alumnus Harvey Bennett Stafford. while being a longtime fan of others (Arneson, **David Ireland**, Larry Sultan). I was not only Viola's student, but also her model and housekeeper from 1990 to 1992. Viola, who never married and had an unconventional platonic life partnership with fellow CCAC professor and ceramic art historian extraordinaire Charles Fiske, thought of her artworks as her children. Though she would probably not consider herself a feminist, and definitely not an activist, she was an exemplary role model of a (woman) artist. I put "woman" in parentheses because she really hated to be called a "woman artist," but it is important to note. While many women artists opened the door for their male counterparts while closing their own, she never did. She was fully committed to her practice, without the weight of an intimate relationship or children, and this has always stuck with me.

Many of the artists in the collection are known for their political leanings, and many of the works take a clear political stance, while others are more innocuous. **Terry Allen's** *Shoe* (1991) is the former, as is **Anthony Aziz's** *Corporate Edge #4*

(Public Image/Private Sector) (1990) and Judy Dater's Ms. Clingfree (1982). Arneson is renowned for his blending of humor and political critique. In his Can You Suggest a '76 Pinot Noir? (1976), George Washington glares guiltily at all of us, perhaps wondering what has happened to his vision for the United States of America, while recognizing his deep complicity in its chaos today, having taken for granted white supremacy, and having been a slave owner himself. Michael Stevens's Black Hand (1988) is a figurative sculpture about the human condition. Stevens described the work as taking the form of an "articulated puppet supported with a crutch." In general the number of California Funk works in the collection is important to note, as the movement was a response to the somber formalism and lack of objectivity in Abstract Expressionism—a response that could certainly be called political.



Judy Dater Ms. Clingfree, 1982 di Rosa Collection, Nap

Institutional Critique

My interest in working with museum collections, and the history and practice of institutional critique, stems from my work with the Portland Art Museum during my time in Portland State University's Art and Social Practice MFA program. We collaboratively produced the "Shine a Light" event, which involved our having free rein to disrupt the museum's status quo for one evening each year. This

event, predictably, was conceived and supported by the education department, while the curatorial department barely tolerated it. The membership staff loved its popularity—it was by far the best-attended event each year—but it stressed out the registrars. Were we as artists endangering—or, almost as bad, disrespecting—the collection? How could we disrupt the modernist sanctuary and remake the museum, at least temporarily, as a place of participation, making, play, and community?

During this time I studied the work of Fred Wilson and his seminal project Mining the Museum (1992) at the Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore. I learned of Mark Allen and Machine Project's user-friendly, outlandish projects at LACMA and the Hammer in Los Angeles, and of the Open Field series at the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis, stewarded by Sarah Schultz. then curator of education and public practice, and co-curated with the Minneapolis public, I read Nina Simon's book The Participatory Museum (2010), and learned of Andrea Fraser's alternative gallery tours. Of course I already knew the Guerilla Girls' work. Meanwhile I was brought on as the first social practice artist in residence in the Portland Art Museum's education department. My task was to engage with audiences in the areas of conversation, slowness, and deepening the visitor experience. I was invited to find problems and solutions. I was invited to problematize and critique the institution! I may have even embarrassed the art.

Fast forward to 2016, when I was invited to collaborate with my brother, the painter Dan Walsh, on a large-scale commission at Williams College Museum of Art in Williamstown, Massachusetts. Tina Olsen, the museum's director, was formerly director of education at the Portland Art Museum and a major instigator of "Shine a Light." In this collaboration, Dan and I found a shared interest in objects and perception, and proceeded to make an immersive installation called *Both Sides Now* (2016) featuring a slew of works from the collection, housed in and around sculptural kiosks. Many of these works had never been shown, some were damaged, and some had questionable provenance. We went without wall labels and instead asked visitors to ask themselves why they would want labels (there was a printed guide they could take home to study the works). We included interferences, jokes, and moments for contemplation, for spying, for sharing conversation, for rethinking what a museum collection actually looks like. It is from this place and methods of activating a museum collection that my curatorial and contextual choices for Be Not Still emerged.

Group Dynamics

As I mentioned, each grouping of sculptural works here evokes or references a recent or universal gathering. One of the first pieces you encounter is Viola Frey's *Untitled (Grandmother Series)* (1978), its back toward us and blocking another work, **Judy Myers Halem**'s *Iwo Jima* (1973). In the latter, Disney figures are copulating as they hold up an American flag. This configuration could refer to deep inquiry or disbelief. The figure blocking could be censoring the content behind, or referring to the protests surrounding Dana Schutz's painting *Open Casket* (2016) at the 2017 Whitney Biennial.

The largest grouping could be a march, protest, or vigil—it references photojournalistic images from the Women's March in Charlottesville and recent demonstrations against gun violence. It also could represent migration and movement, acts of survival and resistance that are critical topics today. A smaller break-off group reiterates these suggestions.

Ten "seated" works suggest a political strategy meeting, a parley, or a kaffeeklatsch. The number of chairs and clothing without bodies in the collection spoke to me as ghostlike beings asking what had happened to those who were on, under, inside of them. **David Ireland**'s *Untitled* (1994) and *Nimbus* (2000) seem to be two concrete-slopped chairs. For Ireland, chairs had multiple implications, suggesting (in his words) a throne—the symbol of authority, of fraternal organizations, and of home.

A group of small works claims an extra-large pedestal like a stage. The most motley of crews gathers here to listen, watch, and maybe riot once the viewer isn't looking. Perhaps it is a Rock the Vote concert, a rowdy demonstration, or a day in Parliament. A long line of small works is comprised mostly of objects that occupied other parts of the di Rosa residence but are not considered part of the collection. A group of this statuary intermingles with artworks that *are* officially in the collection, claiming a long, narrow pedestal. Are they riot police or students in a blockade? As with all of these groupings, the references are suggested, but open for interpretation.

Along the walls are our witnesses, watching, asking us to see them or ignoring us entirely. Diane Flyr and Lynn Hershman Leeson's See Hear (1976) is a set of eyes clearly watching (and listening). Some of these subjects depicted in the works might be known to us—Robert Mondavi, William T. Wiley, even Rene di Rosa himself—while others are begging to become acquainted. Saiman Li's Frankie (1994) is letting us know they exist while they watch us. In Larry Sultan's Golf Swing (1989) and Roger Minick's

Huetterites (Old Faithful, Yellowstone Park) (1979), the subjects apparently have something more important to watch than the gathering or the viewer.



Larry Sultan *Golf Swing,* 1989 di Rosa Collection, Nap

Many of these works and characters cannot be assumed to be on any one predetermined side of a dispute or conflict. They may or may not represent my point of view or yours, and it is not our place to assume what they might be thinking or what move they would make were they to become animated. But we can certainly imagine it. Through the presentation of artworks, I attempt to suggest the fluidity of social movements throughout the ages. This enchanting collection begs to be played with as it is studied.

Works on view in Gallery 1

All works are from the di Rosa Collection unless otherwise noted.

Bobby Neel Adams Bobby Neel Adams / Self-Portrait, 1989 Black-and-white print 39 × 26 ½ in.

Terry Allen Shoe, 1991 Bronze 32 × 20 × 17 in.

Jeremy Radcliffe Anderson Wizard of the North, 1975 Redwood, paint 89 × 36 × 35 in.



Robert Arneson Cup Self-Portrait, n.d. Glazed porcelain 2 ½ × 2 ½ × 2 ½ in.

Torso, 1964 Bronze and paint 33 × 12 × 10 in.

Homage to William Wiley, 1965 Ceramic, metal, and wheels 12 ½ × 16 ½ × 9 in.

Souvenir Chef Bust, 1973 Glazed porcelain 9 ¼ × 3 ¼ × 4 5% in. Mask with Face, 1975 Glazed ceramic 13 ½ × 13 ½ × 6 in.

Can You Suggest a '76 Pinot Noir?, 1976 Glazed ceramic 14 × 14 × 7 in.

Brick Portrait, 1979 Ceramic 69 × 16 × 16 in.

Willie, 1984 Cast bronze 20 ½ × 12 × 16 in.

Viola de Lodi, 1988 Glazed ceramic 56 ½ × 24 × 32 in.

Golden Tongue, 1991 Bronze and ceramic 62 × 20 × 20 in.

Anthony Aziz Corporate Edge #4 (Public Image/Private Sector), 1990

Two Ektacolor prints, one gelatin silver print, and mounted plaque 72 × 60 in.

Anthony Aziz and Samuel Cucher (as Aziz & Cucher) Faith Honor & Beauty (Man with Gun), 1992 Digitalized Ektacolor print 86 × 38 in.

Clayton Bailey
The Jerk (Demented
Pinhead), 1970
Glazed ceramic
42 × 16 × 16 in.

James Barsness
Ridgecrest Drive, 1987
Oil on bed sheeting
66 × 51 ½ in.

Janice Beaman
From the Surface, Vietnam,
2004
Black-and-white print

21 × 17 in.

Ray Beldner Hidden Shame II, 1993 Mixed media 39 × 17 × 10 in.

Money Bag, 1999 Sewn dollar bills and dirt Dimensions variable

David Best *Untitled (Horse with Saucer),*n.d.

Mixed-media assemblage 10 3/4 × 10 × 6 in.

Untitled, 1977 Unglazed ceramic ¾ × ½ × ½ in.

Untitled, 1977 Unglazed ceramic $2 \frac{1}{2} \times 4 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$ in.

Nest, 1988 Plastic and mixed media 8 ½ × 6 ½ × 14 in.

Ribbon Merchant, 1988 Plastic and mixed media 13 × 8 ¾ × 13 in.

Leon Borensztein Farmer Couple, Woodland, California, 1980 Gelatin silver print 20 × 16 in.

Pair of Swimmers, San Francisco, 1983, 1983 Gelatin silver print 14 × 11 in.

Young Tap Dancer, Fresno, 1985 Gelatin silver print 20 × 16 in.

American Indian, Phoenix, Arizona, 1986 Gelatin silver print 16 × 20 in.

Porno Stars on Location, Tokyo, 1994, 1994 Gelatin silver print 14 × 14 in. Rene and Mother Rabbit, 1999 Gelatin silver print 9 ¼ × 9 ¼ in.

Robert Brady Sherpa, 1985 Stoneware, glaze, and paint 44 × 8 ½ × 13 in.

Verdi, 1991 Wood and paint 71 × 27 × 16 in.

Joan Brown
Self-Portrait in Fur Hat, 1972
Enamel on panel
46 34 × 29 34 in.

Wolf, 1986 Wood and copper $49 \times 65 \times 25$ in.

John Buck Woman with Pekingese, 1979 Wood and paint 114 × 36 × 21 in.

The Bridge, 1981 Wood and paint 96 × 54 × 19 in.

 $4 \times 18 \times 6$ in.

Alonzo Canada Neither Here Nor There, 1996 Leather and mixed media

Richard Carter
Troy Simon Burdine II, 1998
Clay, plaster, natural ash
glaze, and human ash
81 × 90 × 15 ½ in.

Tim Cooper Table, 1987 Airbrushed steel 50 × 38 × 25 in.

Birthday Critter, 1989 Airbrushed steel and cardboard 12 1/4 × 20 1/8 × 18 1/4 in.

Bill Dane
Los Angeles (Stripper
Looking at Dollar Bill), 1982
Gelatin silver print
16 × 20 in.

Judy Dater
Ms. Clingfree, 1982
Ektacolor print
18 × 14 in.

Jay DeFeo Isis, 1972 Acrylic and mixed media on Masonite 48 × 24 in.



Stephen De Staebler Standing Woman with Yellow Breast, 1979 Porcelain and low-fire clay 87 ½ × 14 ½ × 26 ½ in.

Leg VIII, 1981 Polychromed bronze 44 × 12 × 16 ½ in.

Rene di Rosa Untitled, 1999 Porcelain Dimensions variable

Al Farrow Study No. 1 after Paul Sanasardo's "The Path, (Section Ice)," 1983 Bronze 8 × 14 ½ × 14 ½ in.

Diane Flyr and Lynn Hershman Leeson See Hear, 1976 Glazed ceramic 11 × 11 × 1 % in. Katharine Frankforter Grape Harvest, Napa, 1970 Acrylic on ragboard 30 × 40 in.

Viola Frey
Untitled (Grandmother
Series), 1978
Ceramic and glazes
70 × 22 ½ × 23 in.

Old Hag, 1985 Glazed ceramic 33 × 18 × 15 in.

Terry Fury
Michelle, 2008
Screen print on acrylic
10 × 10 × 1 in.
Collection of Lexa Walsh
and Dan Nelson

Daniel Galvez
The Mission Series
Study #1, 1988
Mixed-media painting on canvas
30 × 40 in.

Jay Golik #9 Figure, 1994 Ceramic 5 × 9 × 5 in.

Bruce Guttin
Large Tennis Shoes, 1988
Wood
8 × 14 × 14 in.

Dennis Hall *Untitled,* 1972
Chromogenic print 10 × 10 in.

Bruce Hasson Untitled, 1990 Bronze, patina 20 ½ × 10 × 5 ¾ in.

Bill Hill Bound to Where, 1987 Wood and twine 72 × 24 × 10 in.

Robert Howard Saint Luke, 1992 Gypsum, powdered pigments, copper, and hardware 73 × 27 × 38 in. Robert Hudson

Teapot, 1972 (Ceramic # 19), Porcelain, underglazes, and

china paint $17 \frac{1}{2} \times 8 \frac{1}{2} \times 12 \frac{1}{2}$ in.

David Ireland

Untitled, 1994 Wood, metal, and Fix-It-All plaster $35 \times 17 \times 20$ in.

Nimbus, 2000 Steel, concrete, gold leaf, and wood panel $47 \times 26 \times 24$ in.

Joaquin

The Graduate, 1997 Chromogenic print, blistered 19 ½ × 15 ½ in.

Robert Kinmont

Cherrywood Chair, 1971 Wood $34 \frac{1}{2} \times 16 \frac{1}{2} \times 17$ in.

Dona Kopol Bonick Spider Woman, 1999 Gelatin silver print, toned 17 1/4 × 12 1/2 in.

Saiman Li Frankie, 1994 Chromogenic print 24×20 in.

Marvin Lipofsky End All War, 1968 Glass 6 % × 11 × 8 in.

Victor Loverro Three Finger Bob, 1986 Gelatin silver print 12 34 × 17 34 in.

Michael Lucero Trout Dreamer, 1983 Glazed ceramic $23 \times 16 \times 19$ in.

Jock McDonald Untitled, 1977 Plaster and cloth $26 \times 11 \frac{1}{2} \times 7 \text{ in.}$

Robert Mondavi, 1989 Gelatin silver print $7 \frac{1}{8} \times 7 \frac{1}{4}$ in.

The Walking Monk, 1991 Gelatin silver print 14 × 14 in.

Richard Thorpe McLean All American Standard Miss, 1968 Oil on canvas $60 \times 60 \text{ in.}$



Jim Melchert A Friend Walks with You, 1964 Glazed ceramic $7 \times 4 \times 4$ in.

Roger Minick

Huetterites, (Old Faithful, Yellowstone Park), 1979 Gelatin silver print 12 × 10 ¼ in.

Robert Moon Swami Vishnu #4, 1971 Lithograph 10 ¼ × 11 ¼ in.

Margaret Moulton Untitled, 1988 Gelatin silver print $20 \times 20 \text{ in.}$

Judy Myers Halem Iwo Jima, 1973 Colored pencil on paper $25 \times 28 \frac{1}{2}$ in.

Manuel Neri

Fragment No. 2 from Seated Male Figure, 1972 Fiberglass resin and wooden stool $57 \times 24 \times 25$ in.



Makiko #2, 1983 Cast bronze and oil-based enamel $25 \frac{1}{2} \times 10 \frac{1}{2} \times 9 \text{ in.}$

Posturing Series, 1985 Bronze with patina $32 \frac{1}{2} \times 13 \frac{1}{2} \times 11$ in.

Coming in Last Thursday, Oil-based enamel and bronze 64 × 23 ½ × 14 ½ in.



Nathan Oliveira Figure Three, 1982 Painted bronze 41 × 30 % × 22 ¼ in.

Nathaniel Parsons Self Portrait, Hot Spring, 2012 Oil on carved wood $10 \frac{1}{2} \times 7 \frac{3}{4} \times 1 \frac{3}{4}$ in. Collection of Lexa Walsh and Dan Nelson

Michael Howard Peed Untitled, 1981 Wood and paint 29 % × 22 × 14 in.

Armando Rascón

Latina Postcolonial Photobureau: Skateboarder, 1990 Chromogenic print 51×37 in.

Alan Rath

Creature, 2001 Aluminum, steel, rubber, electronics, mechanics, and LCD $26 \times 12 \times 13 \text{ in.}$



Peter Saul Relax in Electric Chair (Dirty Guy), 1965 Styrofoam, fiberglass, and plastic enamel $55 \times 24 \times 42$ in.

Richard Shaw Warren Walter, William, 1981 Porcelain with decal overglaze $59 \times 25 \frac{1}{2} \times 10$ in.



Christine Shields Prince Rojo, 2014 Screen print 11 1/4 × 9 1/4 in. Collection of Lexa Walsh and Dan Nelson

Zhee Singer

Coat Rack, 1987 Wood, fabric, acrylic resins, and enamel $72 \times 15 \times 15$ in.

Peter Stackpole Hollywood Impressions, 1936 Gelatin silver print 7 % × 9 % in.

Harvey Bennett Stafford Moments before Narcoleptic Fit. 1989 Oil, cumin, curry powder, chili powder, and varnish on canvas 27 % × 27 % in.

Michael Stevens Black Hand, 1988 Pine and enamel $77 \times 36 \times 18 \text{ in.}$

Larry Sultan Golf Swing, 1989 Chromogenic print 40×50 in.

William T. Wiley Angel, 1982 Wood, steel, paint, and stainless steel 98 × 40 × 29 in.

Franklin Williams Untitled #4, 1968 Acrylic, plastic, yarn, and canvas $19 \% \times 16 \times 9 \%$ in.

Jenifer Wofford Boy with a Pearl Mouthquard (After Vermeer), 2016 Archival pigment print on acid-free paper 13 ¼ × 13 ¼ in. Collection of Lexa Walsh and Dan Nelson

Anne Veraldi Remnant IX, 1988 Cardboard, metal base, and copper tube 90 × 20 × 16 in.

The presentation also includes various decorative objects from Rene di Rosa's former residence. Look for the chef, the skeleton, an animal head, four saints, and a saint head. Included also is a toy clown found by Lexa Walsh on Mission Street in San Francisco.

About the Curator



Lexa Walsh (b. 1968, Haverford, Pennsylvania) is an artist and cultural worker based in Oakland who examines and creates social ties in order to craft what she calls "hospitable democracies." She has been a recipient of Southern Exposure's Alternative Exposure Award, the CEC Artslink Award, and the Gunk Grant, and was a de Young Artist Fellow. Walsh has participated in projects, exhibitions, and performances locally and nationally, including at Apexart, New York; the Oakland Museum of California; the Portland Art Museum, Oregon; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Smack Mellon, Brooklyn; the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts; and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco. She has also done several international artist residencies, tours. and projects in Europe and Asia. Walsh is a graduate of Portland State University's Art and Social Practice MFA program and was a social practice artist in residence in the Portland Art Museum's Education department. She is currently working on curatorial projects at NIAD in Richmond, California, and is a 2018-19 Kala Print Public awardee.

Victor Cartagena Ranu Mukherjee Lava Thomas

Victor Cartagena: Immigration

Conceptual artist Victor Cartagena employs a variety of media and draws from his experience growing up in El Salvador to create his issue-based works. An immigrant himself, since arriving in California in 1985 he has explored the lives and visibility of those who have fled situations in their home territories below the border to live in this country.

Cartagena's recent exhibition at the San José Museum of Art featured Labor Tea (2016), an installation of hundreds of tea bags, each filled with a 1980s-era passport photo from then-warstricken El Salvador. Through its presentation and title, the work acted as a metaphor for the often invisible plight of those whose efforts make possible American luxuries and leisure activities. He uses similar passport photos in *Transparencias* (2008), where they dangle from the ceiling in an immersive installation. These works are characteristic of Cartagena's production, in that they connect the personal to the universal, at once relating to his home country while speaking to immigration in California and the United States more broadly. Another recent installation, Sugar Face (2016), resulted from research Cartagena conducted with the United Farm Workers Foundation, in which a centenarian Mexican immigrant told him a story about working in the sugar beet fields in California. The artist sculpted the likenesses of immigrants he met into blocks of sugar and placed them in a gallery, where they slowly disintegrated over the run of the exhibition.

Cartagena continues to address immigration through a lens both political and cultural in his installation for *Be Not Still. Expulsion/Implosion* (2018) is comprised of several complex sculptural elements that refer to past projects, but are presented in a new context and scale. Hundreds of protest-like signs, affixed to sticks that lean against the walls in dense clusters, feature the faces of anonymous immigrants. Two sets of digitally projected eyes of immigrant college students amplify the omnipresence of immigrant lives. They are simultaneously ominous and alive—a sign of resilience and courage in the face of a political climate seeking to diminish immigrants of all origins. Taking the artist's earlier passport photo projects to a new



Victor Cartagena, *Labor Tea* (detail), 2016 Commissioned by the San José Museum of Art, courtesy of the artist. Photo: Richard Karson

level, the landscape of faces and eyes bear witness to the gallery setting, and invites viewers to consider their presence and prophecy.

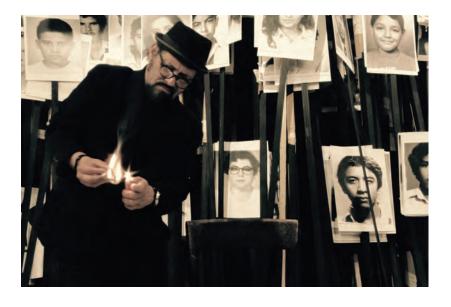
Two sculptures on the floor feature carved heads connected via chain to cylindrical forms. One has a cement head formed around a burned stick (sourced from di Rosa's property after the 2017 North Bay wildfires) connected via a shiny silver shackle to a ball made of sugar. The other inverts this scenario, with a visage of sugar attached to a heavy cement sphere. Cement evokes durability, and sugar evanescence. The pieces remind us of materials associated with capitalism brought to us by immigrant labor, from the sugar in soft drinks and chocolate to the cement of our sidewalks and buildings. Another sculpture combines a burned wooden chair with a speaker softly emitting numbers read aloud that are culled from global migration statistics. The piece calls attention to those who haven't had a seat at the proverbial table, metaphorically holding space for them.

Expulsion/Implosion brings complexity and potency to a hotbutton political divide in this country related to borders, dreamers, and "bad hombres." Taking Napa's reputation for fine wine and

cuisine as a point of departure—how do the grapes from our region become the wine on our dinner table, anyway?—Cartagena incorporates the local into the broader political discourse, while also referencing his personal and artistic trajectory. "Through this installation," he says, "I want to remind the viewer that we immigrants are those who pick the grapes, process the chicken and meat, clean your offices and houses, build your homes, take care of your loved ones, cook and serve your food, wash your dishes, educate your children."



Victor Cartagena (b. 1965, San Salvador, El Salvador) is a multidisciplinary visual artist who has been making work in San Francisco since the 1980s. His artwork has addressed his experience as an immigrant, memories of violence in his home country, and the death penalty. He works in a variety of media, including drawing, painting, installation, public art, sculpture, and theater. Cartagena has exhibited his work in solo and group exhibitions in the United States and internationally, including at the San José Museum of Art; the Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History: the University of Puget Sound's Kittredge Gallery, Tacoma, Washington; Richmond Art Center, California; Intersection for the Arts, San Francisco; SOMArts, San Francisco; the Oakland Museum of California: and MACLA Center for Latino Arts, San Jose. Internationally, his work has been seen in Mexico, Japan, El Salvador, Cuba, Costa Rica, Belarus, Ecuador, Argentina, Spain, France, and Greece. Cartagena has received grants from Creative Capital, the Phyllis C. Wattis Foundation, and Creative Work Fund, among others. His work is in numerous private and institutional collections, including the Contemporary Museum in Honolulu and the Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece.





Top and bottom: work in progress by Victor Cartagena in his studio, San Francisco

Ranu Mukherjee: Health

Ranu Mukherjee investigates relationships between paintings and moving images, creating multidimensional patterned surfaces on a variety of materials. She layers and recontextualizes images from a diverse array of sources, including historical Indian figuration, current events, and real and imagined landscapes. Her complex projects probe socially engaged narratives and her own experience as a multiracial artist of Indian and European descent.

Mukheriee's moving-image works combine painting. photo-graphy, digital imagery, and choreographed movements. Mixing Dusts (2017) portrays pairs of people rolling around on a shifting ground, hugging, while fragmented imagery floats around the screen. Mixing intimacy with uncertainty, bodies with environment, the work points to the multiplicities involved in our relationships to each other and our worlds. The video is part of her ongoing body of work called Shadowtime, which includes brightly colored abstractions on panel comprised of pigment and milk paint. The curvy gestural strokes create overlapping forms that are hard to make out on first glance. After prolonged study, the outlines of figures embracing, people gathered in protest and prayer, and elemental references to shifting landscapes and colonial histories emerge from the background. Mukherjee sources from the past and the present to give power to entangled narratives, traces, frag-ments, and messiness. By freeing her subjects from their confined or predictable places in visual culture, she opens up possibilities of change and resilience.

In her immersive installation for *Be Not Still*, the artist combines choreography, animation, line, and color to explore the topic of health. In the center of the space, a new video work *Succession* (2018) features choreographed movement that, in collaboration with Hope Mohr Dance, was filmed on the north end of di Rosa's property where the ground and trees burned in the 2017 North Bay wildfires. Through improvisational interaction with charred trees and singed earth, the dancers bring life to what seems dead, honoring what was and what will become. Among the ongoing reverberations of catastrophic events both near and far, what is it



Ranu Mukherjee, *Mixing Dusts* (installation view), 2017 Courtesy of the artist and Gallery Wendi Norris, San Francisco. Photo: JKA Photography

to begin over? to be unmoored? Metaphors of body and environment unearth how societal events impact our well-being. The sculptural video installation also includes a custom-cut mirrored floor pattern whose shapes parallel movements in the film. The reflective surface merges body and ground and connects the components of the installation through reflection. Incorporated in the design are charred pieces of wood blackened from the fires, a way of giving agency to the earth inside the gallery space. In Mukherjee's work, health applies not just to individual bodies and minds but also to nature and communities.

The gallery walls adjacent to the installation are covered with charcoal drawings that layer imagery of trees and tragedies. Mukherjee's expressive lines suggest energy and urgency. Their sooty pigment evokes the jet-black pieces of wood nearby, as if the images might have been created from ash. For the artist, the earth is a metaphor for culture. The divisiveness of our current (and past) political and social environment is a part of our collective health, nationally and globally. Intertwining these symbiotic relationships is a way to reenergize feelings of sensation and sensitivity—our ability to recognize illness and pain, or experience ecstasy. A delicate

care is evident in the execution of each component of Mukherjee's installation, extending the topic of health even to the viewer's experience of the work—inspiring, perhaps, new expressions of nurturing once visitors have departed the gallery.



Ranu Mukherjee (b. 1966, Boston) is a San Francisco-based artist whose work includes hybrid films and installations, drawing, painting, printed textiles, and projects involving choreography, sound design, book making, procession, pirate radio, and the creation of neologisms and avatars. Her projects are fundamentally time-based and embody the ongoing construction of culture through creolization, migration, ecology, speculative fiction, and desire. Mukherjee was a cofounder of the collective media artist Orphan Drift (begun in 1994). Her museum projects include a forthcoming multimedia installation for the de Young Museum, San Francisco (2018); Extracted, Asian Art Museum, San Francisco (2016); Phantasmagoric, Los Angeles County Museum of Contemporary Art (2016); and Telling Fortunes, San José Museum of Art (2012). Her work has been exhibited internationally and is in the collections of the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco; the Robert D. Bielecki Foundation. New York: Kadist Art Foundation, New York and Paris; the Oakland Museum of California: and the San José Museum of Art. She received her MFA from the Royal College of Art, London, and her BFA from the Massachusetts College of Art, Boston. She is represented by Gallery Wendi Norris in San Francisco.



Hope Mohr dancers perform on site at di Rosa, April 2018



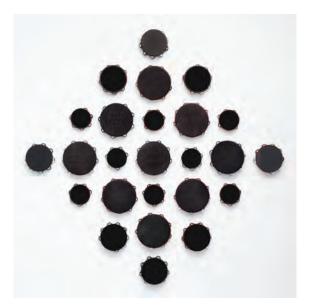
Work in progress by Ranu Mukherjee in her studio, San Francisco

Lava Thomas: Solidarity

Lava Thomas employs multiple mediums and strategies to create works that consider notions of visibility, resilience, and empowerment in the face of erasure, trauma, and oppression. She situates her multimedia projects, which include drawing, painting, installation, and sculpture, around social, racial, and political issues. Thomas frequently draws upon the tradition of portraiture to disrupt stereotypes surrounding skin color and visibility. Her series of paintings *Childhood* (2013–ongoing), based on school photographs, depicts the likenesses of herself and friends when they were children using shades of ultramarine blue, a pigment that was once more costly than gold. Can we discern a subject's ethnicity when their face is rendered in blue? *Anatomy Portraits* (2014) extrapolates on the theme. Delicately rendered in graphite, the series portrays the anatomical visages of men sans epidermis. The subtitle of the series asks: Who are we without our skin?

Thomas has used the tambourine as a potent symbol in several installation projects. *Requiem for Charleston* (2016), recently acquired by the Smithsonian American Art Museum, is a wall installation featuring twenty-five tambourines arranged in a diamond shape. Nine of the instruments have black lambskin surfaces and are inscribed with the names of the victims of the 2015 massacre at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Some of the remaining tambourines feature a shiny onyx surface treatment that reflects the viewers, allowing them to enmesh themselves in the work. Both viewer and artwork continually bear witness to the tragedy, in a gesture intended to encourage empathy and collective healing.

For Thomas, the tambourine is an egalitarian and accessible instrument whose history is rooted in cultures around the globe, and whose playing generally doesn't require training or expertise. The tambourine is associated with gospel and folk music, particularly songs of the civil rights movement, and it is often played at marches and protests. The tambourines, coupled with the artist's renderings of their surfaces and their placement within installations, become receptacles for ongoing interpretation.



Lava Thomas, *Requiem for Charleston*, 2016 Courtesy of the artist and the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington DC

For Be Not Still, Thomas responds to the topic of solidarity through an expansive environment of tambourines. Hundreds of them are suspended in a cloud-like formation from the ceiling, while others are arranged in a large, round configuration on the back wall of the gallery, sporting mirrored exteriors. The circular forms serve as metaphors for both praise and protest, actions that are performed in gatherings of communities and looked to for empowerment and healing in a climate of upheaval. The pink and burnt orange surfaces of the hanging instruments—rendered in leather and Plexiglas evoke the Women's March of January 2017 and moments of feminist activism of the 1980s and 1990s as well as the 2018 March for Our Lives. The black color of the frames references the Great March on Washington of 1963 to advocate for the civil and economic rights of African Americans where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Dispersed within the cloud of tambourines are fragments of handwritten phrases identified with other past and present eras of resistance, ranging from Sojourner Truth's 1851 speech "Ain't I a Woman" to the current mantra "Black Lives Matter." The installation fuses historic and contemporary expressions of activism into a unified statement of resilience, resistance, and reclamation.

Unlike Requiem for Charleston, Thomas's installation Resistance Reverb, Movement 1 (2018) intentionally activates the tambourines. Their subtle jingling is omnipresent in the gallery, echoing past and present struggles for equality and social justice. Mirrored tambourines amplify the installation and reflect visitors in the gallery space, implicating them within the work and creating a dynamic environment that changes continually. We might visualize a sea of pink pussy hats flooding city streets, or perhaps just our individual selves, the personal struggles and victories we each wage related to our own histories, identities, and communities. Taken as a whole, the distinct elements of the installation represent a multiplicity united in solidarity, yet still retain individual agency: power placed directly in the hands of the people.



Lava Thomas (b. 1958, Los Angeles) is a Bay Area-based visual artist whose projects explore the events, figures, and movements that inform and shape our individual and collective histories. Central to her practice are notions of visibility, resilience, and healing, whether the artworks memorialize victims of racial violence, transform galleries into contemplative spaces, or stretch the conventions of portraiture and representation. Thomas's work has been exhibited at the Museum of the African Diaspora, San Francisco; the International Print Center New York: the Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco; the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, Colorado; and the California African American Museum, Los Angeles, among other venues. Her work is in the permanent collections of the United States Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa; the Smithsonian American Art Museum, Washington, DC; and the de Young Museum, San Francisco. She studied at UCLA's School of Art Practice and received a BFA from California College of the Arts. She is represented by Rena Bransten Gallery in San Francisco.





Top and bottom: work in progress by Lava Thomas in her studio, Berkeley

Gallery 2 Hallway

Selections from the di Rosa Collection

Jonathan Barbieri

After some studies at the San Francisco Art Institute, Jonathan Barbieri (b. 1955), a largely self-taught painter, traveled to southern Mexico, eventually settling in Oaxaca, where he made much of his work in the 1980s and 1990s. The subjects he portrays on canvas are energized by experience and conviction, questioning the traditional values of painting and examining society's shortcomings. The Tyranny of Fear (1990) launched what Barbieri calls his "anti-civilization" paintings. The work is emblematic of the artist's outrage at the American government's support of violence in countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, and Panama. The seductive, swirling, snake-like figure suggests a pagan interpretation of the classical Mexican serpent form: representing rebirth, regeneration, and guardianship of sacred spaces. Its human head, confronting the viewer, has blood gushing from the back of the skull, symbolizing the terror occurring in South American countries. La Negacion del Paisaje (The Denial of Landscape, 1998) is equally layered and metaphorical. A beheaded figure sits in a chair below a defaced landscape painting in which the horizon line is apparently exploded, agitated, or erased-whatever is the case, both the classic painting genre and dominant ideologies of the role of land in society are being violated. The decapitated head on the ground is flanked by an angel that might represent an avenger or a defender of the old order. The political earnestness of Barbieri's work and the complexity of his subjects, both conceptually and visually, resonate with Victor Cartagena's contemporary response to similar matters.

Judy Dater

Judy Dater (b. 1941) has been photographing the human form for decades. During a period in the 1980s she specifically focused on self-portraits, creating powerful works that explore gender, nature, and society (see for instance Ms. Clingfree [1982], on view in Gallery 1). In Self-Portrait with Steam Vent (1981) the artist's nude body perches at the edge of an opening in the earth, which emits steam from superhot water below the surface. Behind her back Dater holds a sparkler that emits light from between her legs, a fissure occurring above

ground. The body becomes part of the landscape, connecting the core of the planet to "the origin of the world" (à la Gustave Courbet's famous and controversial 1866 painting), causing disruption not to the land itself but to notions of gender identity and empowerment. Dater's Untitled (1983) depicts her in Capitol Reef National Park, her body stretched beneath the edge of a large boulder, standing strong under the rock's perceived massive weight, which can be read as the pressure or heaviness of an inequitable environment. Dater's integration of body and landscape with societal issues is very much in dialogue with Ranu Mukherjee's dynamic installation nearby.

Mildred Howard

Bay Area-born and raised artist Mildred Howard (b. 1945) operates across media, but the bulk of her work involves creating sculptures and installations out of everyday and/or found objects. She works with memory to create poignant and ethereal pieces that tie into themes of racial inequality and injustice-see for instance Memory Garden Phase I (1990), located just outside the north-facing hallway doors of this gallery. Red (1998) is a print Howard contributed to a multi-authored portfolio of works celebrating the life and spirit of Paul Robeson (1898-1976). Robeson was a politically outspoken musician and actor whose support of pro-Soviet policies caused him to be blacklisted in the era of Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist witch hunts. Red directly engages this aspect of Robeson's life through its title and coloring, which allude to red-baiting. The print depicts a jubilant man in a hat who smiles through an array of circles in hues that blend and contrast with the ruby-colored overlay to create a vibrant composition that almost appears to be in motion. "The artist must take sides. He must elect to fight for freedom or slavery. I have made my choice. I had no alternative," Robeson remarked in 1937, in support of the democratically elected Spanish Republic. Howard's use of circular forms and her empowerment of her subject-in addition to the fusing of past and present forms of civil rights activism-evokes a kinship with Lava Thomas's immersive installation, visible just behind the wall.

Works on View in Gallery 2

Main Gallery

Victor Cartagena

Expulsion/Implosion, 2018 Wooden sticks, enlarged photographs, video projection, metal chains, cement, sugar, and wooden chair with speakers Dimensions variable

Ranu Mukherjee

Succession, 2018
Video installation: hybrid
film (digital video, HD),
vinyl mirror dance floor,
charred wood, custom
wood benches
Dimensions variable

love in shadowtime 3, 2018 Interior matte paint, charcoal 132 × 270 in.

love in shadowtime 4, 2018 Interior matte paint, charcoal 144 × 270 in.

love in shadowtime 5, 2018 Interior matte paint, charcoal 84 × 135 in.

love in shadowtime 6, 2018 Interior matte paint, charcoal 156 × 135 in.

Lava Thomas

Resistance Reverb: Movement 1, 2018

Tambourines, leather, suede, Plexiglas, mirrored acrylic, acrylic paint, monofilament wire, S-hooks, aluminum grid, steel, fans, and lights approx. 102 × 156 × 312 in.

Resistance Reverb: Movement 2, 2018

Tambourines and mirrored acrylic approx. 120 × 120 in.

Hallway Gallery

All works from the di Rosa Collection, Napa

Jonathan Barbieri

La Negacion del Paisaje (The Denial of Landscape), 1998 Oil on linen 59 ¾ × 65 in.

The Tyranny of Fear, 1990 Oil on canvas 60 × 50 in.

Judy Dater

Self Portrait with Steam Vent, 1981 Gelatin silver print 27 × 23 % in.

Untitled, 1983 Chromogenic print 15 ½ × 19 ½ in.

Mildred Howard

Red, 1998 Color screenprint 25 ¾ × 20 in.

Public Programs

di Rosa is pleased to present a wide array of artist-centered programs in conjunction with Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times:

Thursday, July 19, 2018, 7–8 pm Third Thursdays: Sew-in with Lexa Walsh Gallery 1

Saturday, July 28, 2018, 3-4 pm Tea Talk with Lexa Walsh Offsite: Sonoma Valley Regional Library

Saturday, August 11, 3–5 pm In Conversation: Victor Cartagena and guests Gallery 2

Saturday, September 15, 2018, 3-5 pm In Conversation: Ranu Mukherjee and Judy Dater Gallery 2

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 3-5 pm Ranu Mukherjee and Hope Mohr Dance Interactive Performance Gallery 2

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 3-5 pm In Conversation: Lava Thomas and Mildred Howard + Solidarity Button Making Gallery 2

Please plan to arrive at least 15 minutes in advance for shuttle service to Gallery 2.

For details and updates, or to join our mailing list, visit dirosaart.org.

Community Partnerships

As part of di Rosa's mission to provide inspiring experiences with contemporary art of Northern California, di Rosa is partnering with several community-based organizations in conjunction with the exhibition:

Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley:

di Rosa art educators lead elementary-school members of the Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley's Language Academy Clubhouse in exciting, hands-on art activities inspired by the topics explored in part 2 of *Be Not Still*. Club members learn about the motivation and artistic process behind the installations at di Rosa, create their own art pieces, and have the opportunity to share and discuss their work with club staff and peers.

Music in the Vineyards: di Rosa is pleased to serve as a venue for the first time for the program's debut of the Miró Quartet. Masterworks of Beethoven and Hayden will be performed in Gallery 2, with a talk beforehand.

Napa Valley College Theater Arts: Building on the success of the collaboration from part 1 of *Be Not Still*, Jennifer King, Napa Valley College performing arts coordinator and artistic director, is working with di Rosa's education team to craft new experiences for her students to engage in meaningful ways with part 2 of the exhibition.

Napa County Library: In this free, four-part workshop series, participants discuss a topic from the exhibition and respond by creating their own artwork. Led by a di Rosa educator and held offsite at Napa County Library's main branch, this workshop is designed to be intergenerational and approachable for all skill levels. Artworks created by participants will be displayed at the library, and a tour of Be Not Still wraps up the experience.

