



Dear Friends of di Rosa,

As you may know, Rene (1919–2010) and Veronica (1934–1991) di Rosa, art collectors and longtime champions of artists of the Bay Area and Northern California, established the Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation in 1983. In 2000, Rene di Rosa established a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit entity – di Rosa Preserve – with the intent to exhibit and promote works by artists of Northern California. The Foundation served as the primary funder of the nonprofit, lending works from its collection for display and providing modest financial support for general operations. Following Rene di Rosa’s death in 2010, the Preserve has been evolving from a single collector’s private endeavor to an independent public facing institution, and in 2017, the Preserve adopted a new name to clarify its mission: di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art. Today, the Center serves more than 13,000 visitors annually and presents contemporary exhibitions by Bay Area-based artists with an array of educational programs for all ages.

While having ceased active collecting after the death of our founder, the Foundation still incurs considerable costs to maintain and care for the collection assembled during di Rosa’s lifetime. These costs are not entirely aligned with the efforts to make contemporary art available to our community at large.

Toward that end, the Board of the Foundation has now unanimously resolved that both nonprofit entities are non-collecting. In the coming months, the Foundation will begin a phased process to reduce the approximately 1,600 works in the di Rosa holdings to several hundred pieces that represent the collecting vision of Rene and Veronica di Rosa. This legacy collection, currently being determined, will continue to be available to di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art for exhibitions and display in public locations and on the grounds of the Center. The remaining works, not in the legacy collection, will eventually be made available for sale, and any proceeds will go toward financial stability for the Foundation, so it can continue to support its art center affiliate. I am leading this initiative with the di Rosa Foundation’s Collections Committee, in consultation with Graham W. J. Beal, former Director, President and CEO of the Detroit Institute of Arts, who knew Rene and the collection in his lifetime.

The Board’s decision comes after a prolonged and in-depth analysis of our own history and vision as well as the broader cultural landscape of Northern California. The new plan is necessary to keep the Center’s doors open and to allow both organizations to thrive and serve our community. We will continue to work closely with and present the artists of the region, and we look forward to continuing to serve the broadest community possible through thoughtful exhibitions and inclusive education programs that engage people from all walks of life in ideas that matter.

We appreciate your continued support of the Center, and we look forward to welcoming you soon to one of our exhibitions or programs. Should you have any comments, please email them to rjcommunications@dirosaart.org, and we will respond as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Robert Sain
Executive Director
di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art