

di Rosa



Media Contact

FITZ & CO

Meg Huckaby

mhuckaby@fitzandco.art

646-589-0928

For Immediate Release

The Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation Board Announces Plan Toward Sustainable Future for di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art

Napa, CA (July 5, 2019) – The Board of Directors of the Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation is adopting changes toward a sustainable future for both the Foundation and the growing nonprofit it supports, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art.

Art collectors and longtime champions of artists of the Bay Area and Northern California, Rene (1919–2010) and Veronica (1934–1991) di Rosa 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 di Rosa 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. In 2017, the Preserve adopted a new name to clarify its mission: di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, which currently 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 the founder, the Foundation still incurs considerable costs to maintain the care of the collection assembled during di Rosa’s lifetime. These costs are not entirely aligned with the efforts to make contemporary art available to the 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 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. This initiative is being led and implemented by Robert Sain, Executive Director of di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art, and 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 di Rosa and the collection in his lifetime.

Brenda Mixson, President of the Foundation’s Board of Directors, says, “The decision to reduce and focus the collection is necessary to keep di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art’s doors open and to allow both organizations to thrive and serve our community. As non-collecting entities, our emphasis will be on commissioning and supporting working artists and expanding the artistic experiences available for visitors.”

Executive Director Robert Sain, states, “The Foundation 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. We will continue to collaborate with the artists of the region and present their work, 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.”

About di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art offers visitors transformative experiences with the art of Northern California. The site features two galleries and a sculpture meadow, located on 217 scenic acres in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, an area that has few offerings in contemporary art. To allow access for families, admission is free for all children ages 17 and under.

Under the leadership of Sain, who was appointed Executive Director in 2016, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art recently accomplished significant initiatives, including an upgrade of the facilities, along with new branding and identity, and opened the campus to a self-guided experience for visitors. Of pivotal importance has been the introduction of large-scale thematic exhibitions coupled with a substantially ramped-up and integrated education program and new community partnerships, as evidenced by *Be Not Still: Living in Uncertain Times*, which featured eight artist commissions in 2018. Currently on view is *Viola Frey: Center Stage*, the most comprehensive retrospective of the artist to date, launching a trilogy of exhibitions of under-recognized women artists. Jean Conner and Deborah Remington exhibitions are slated for 2020 along with a new series of artists’ commissions.

About the Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation

The Rene and Veronica di Rosa Foundation is a private foundation established by Rene and Veronica di Rosa in 1983. di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is the only organization the Foundation supports.

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