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**di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art**

**& Walt Williams *PEACE***

**Napa, CA (April 29, 2022) --** As a follow-up to the site-specific installation *VOTE*, which graced di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art’s entry in October 2020, local Sonoma educator Walt Williams and his son Tuck Williams, have installed a call for *PEACE* on di Rosa’s dam facing Sonoma Highway. Williams is a Creekside High School teacher well-known for his locally iconic *SONOMAWOOD* sign that graces the Plaza during the Sonoma International Film Festival each March. “I’m always trying to increase awareness in the classroom and when the war broke out, I felt powerless. I needed to do something. So after the film festival, I had letters left over and decided to paint them in the Ukrainian colors and put them up, hoping that people who drive by will realize what a horrible situation it is. Do everything you can,” Walt explains.

“di Rosa has always been a platform for local artists to speak out on the issues of our day,” states Executive Director Kate Eilertsen. “This philosophy has been baked into the DNA of di Rosa from its beginnings and is needed more today than ever. di Rosa extends a huge thank you to Walt and Tuck for their continued support.”

di Rosa will be commemorating its 25th Anniversary all year long with a series of special events ranging from artist talks and films to concerts and theatrical performances. On May 14, the public is invited to attend an informal discussion with Director, Kate Eilertsen and Deputy Director, Andrea Saenz, on the anniversary of Rene di Rosa’s birthday, reflecting on the importance of di Rosa’s collection and site. On December 3, the festivities will culminate with a 25th Anniversary Celebration Gala honoring Eleanor Coppola and Lynn Hershman Leeson for their extraordinary lives in the arts. A complete listing of 25th Anniversary events can be found on the 25th Anniversary webpage.

di Rosa’s 217 acres provide a spectacular setting for the organization’s collection of approximately 1600 artworks—one of the leading collections of art produced in Northern California since 1960. “Rene wasn’t afraid to take risks with his support of young, provocative artists who are now international art world icons,” Executive Director Kate Eilertsen states. Going forward, “these artists will continue to give us the ability to understand the world in new and profound ways.”

Looking forward to its next 25 years, di Rosa is committed to engaging new audiences within wine country and beyond through dynamic community partnerships and a renewed commitment to the values of diversity, equity and inclusion.

“Rene and Veronica di Rosa gave our community a legendary gift when they not only supported artists from the Bay Area but also a beautiful art park for hikes, picnics, bird watching and watching the sun set,” states Liz Dietz, di Rosa Board of Directors Co-President. “We are excited about celebrating the past and planning for the future.”

**ABOUT DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, Napa. The campus is open to the public Friday to Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM and by appointment Tuesday through Thursday. For more information visit www.dirosaart.org.

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