

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:



di Rosa

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di Rosa Invites Current & Aspiring Art Collectors!

Come to a Conversation & Happy Hour

Amidst Eclectic Art Collection

NAPA, CA (November 3, 2022) – di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art invites current and aspiring art collectors to “Eclectic Collecting Conversation & Happy Hour,” **Saturday, November 12 from 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.** Taking place in two parts, the conversation will occur in di Rosa’s Gallery 2 from 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. The happy hour will immediately follow on the Gallery 2 patio from 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.

This inspiring conversation is meant for art collectors of all levels— from the avid to the simply curious—will be guided by di Rosa’s Executive Director and Chief Curator Kate Eilertsen, (also a collector), art advisor Chandra Cerrito, Kathleen Thompson Hill, and gallerist David Keaton. The program will be moderated by Andrea Saenz, di Rosa’s Deputy Director and Director of Education.

“I am excited to round out our year of 25th Anniversary programming with a conversation that is inspired by di Rosa’s collection. It is diverse, relevant, and has an emphasis on personal versus popular taste,” states program organizer Andrea Saenz. “The conversation should be a lot of fun. I bet it will engage the audience with everything from personal stories to providing advice on where to start or approaches to art fairs.”

A collector’s happy hour will be held on the back patio of Gallery 2 following the conversation. Gallerist and Eclectic Collecting panelist David Keaton notes that, “every hour is a happy hour, when you collect art.” Artworks created by children during a recent family program will be displayed during the happy hour. These artworks explore the concept of collecting and assembling natural objects found at di Rosa, highlighting the variety of collecting possibilities available to all ages. **For tickets and more information about this program visit www.dirosaart.org/eclectic-collecting/.**

The following **Saturday, November 19, di Rosa's 25th Anniversary Art Auction** opens to public preview—both online and in person, in Gallery 1. Collectors will have the opportunity to acquire works donated to the auction by artists including Chester Arnold, Sandow Birk, Enrique Chagoya, Francis Collins, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Michael Garlington, Oliver Lee Jackson, Paul Kos, Kara Maria, Michael McDermott, Jock McDonald, Jim Melchert, Adia Millett, Deborah Oropallo, Richard Shaw, Isabelle Sorrell, Lorna Stevens, Nick Taylor, Larry Thomas, William T. Wiley, Wanxin Zhang. For auction details and information visit www.dirosaart.org/auction.

About the Eclectic Collecting panelists:

Chandra Cerrito has over 20 years of experience as an interior art advisor and public art consultant, Chandra Cerrito has a depth of art consulting expertise. After earning a BA in art history and Certificate of Visual Art from Princeton University and an MFA in sculpture from California College of the Arts, she worked in Bay Area galleries and art consulting firms as manager, assistant to the director, and art consultant. Starting in 2003, Cerrito refined her curatorial skills as an independent curator of numerous museum exhibitions and director of the Oakland-based gallery Chandra Cerrito Contemporary for over a decade. In 2004, she founded Chandra Cerrito / Art Advisors, in Napa, CA, which helps create collections for corporate, hospitality and health care clients. As a public art advisor, she has worked with developers, property owners, and cities to manage over 45 public art projects and develop public art policy.

Kate Eilertsen has worked in the art world for many years as an arts advocate, museum director, curator and educator. She began her museum work at the Metropolitan Museum in New York, moved to Boston where she opened a new museum for the Harvard University Art Museums and then to California where she was the Director of Intersection for the Arts, Museum of Craft and Folk Art, Acting Director of Visual Arts for Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and Executive Director for the Sonoma Valley Museum of Art. She has taught at the California College of Arts, San Francisco Art Institute and recently at Sonoma State University. She has been a guest curator and art consultant in Sonoma County. She is currently the Executive Director and Chief Curator at di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art.

Eilertsen earned a BFA from Macalester College, MA from Hunter College and completed the Executive Program for Non-Profit leaders in arts from Stanford University. She was on the Editorial Advisory Committee for the Sonoma Index Tribune, Art Advisory Committee for the Green Music Center at Sonoma State University and Chair of the San Francisco Art Institute's Community Advisory Board. She has been a member of the Board of Directors for Kala Art Institute, Joe Goode Performance Group, Intersection for the Arts and currently for the Imaginists.

Kathleen Thompson Hill has collected antique kitchen utensils for more than 40 years, calling it her “quirky obsession.” With degrees in French and Italian from U.C. Berkeley and the Sorbonne, she cut classes in Paris to talk her way into auditing at the Cordon Bleu and the Louvre. Following another interest, she earned an MA in Political Psychology at Sonoma State University where she and her late husband co-taught various courses.

Kathleen has taught American Politics & Government at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, Sonoma State, and U.C. Berkeley where she was also a Visiting Scholar and staff member.

Currently she serves on the boards of Sonoma Overnight Support (SOS), KSVY-SVTV, Sonoma Valley Historical Society, Agricultural Advisory Board at Sonoma Valley High School, and Canadian Studies at U.C. Berkeley. Recently she served nearly 14 years as Food & Wine Editor and columnist for the Sonoma Index-Tribune and has hosted the Kathleen Hill Show on KSVY 91.3 FM for 15 years. She has also written 42 books, most with her late husband Gerald Hill.

Her 3,500-piece Kathleen Thompson Hill Kitchen Memories Collection is now in residence at Elizabeth Spencer Winery in Rutherford as a “permanent rotating exhibit.”

David Keaton is a published author who has consulted with museums, artist estates, collectors, and galleries on numerous post-war art exhibitions over the past 15 years. He is currently the director of Modern Art West Gallery in Sonoma, CA.

Keaton has curated and consulted on museum exhibitions on the topics of the Women of Abstract Expressionism, the Berkeley School of Abstract Expressionism, the Pattern and Decoration movement, and the artists Karl Kasten, Joan Brown, Emiko Nakano, Nathan Oliveira, and Sonya Rapoport, among others.

Keaton has been a member of the exhibition committees of the San Jose Museum of Art, the Monterey Museum of Art, and the Center for Photographic Art. He received a B.A. in history and political science from U.C. Berkeley.

ABOUT DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

di Rosa is an art park and nature preserve on 217 acres in Carneros. Located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, di Rosa sits smack dab between Napa and Sonoma. The property includes two large art galleries, a beautiful lake, abundant birding, walking trails with vineyard views, outdoor sculptures, and picnic grounds.

Specializing in the art of Northern California, di Rosa presents contemporary exhibitions by Bay Area-based artists in addition to maintaining a permanent collection of notable works by artists with ties to the Bay Area from the mid-twentieth century to the early

2000's. di Rosa offers an array of public programs and events for all ages to inspire creativity and curiosity.

di Rosa is open to the public Friday through Sunday from 11 AM to 4 PM, and by appointment Tuesday through Thursday, with two weeks advance notice. Public tours are offered Friday and Sunday at 1:30 p.m. and on Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to bring picnics. Outside food and drink is welcome. Children and educators are always free at di Rosa. For more information visit www.dirosaart.org.

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di Rosa Collection in di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art's Gallery 2. Photo credit: Grace Hendricks