

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Photos below and available [here](#).

di Rosa



Natural Discourse @ di Rosa Transforms Art Center Starting May 5

A series of large-scale photographic installations, highlighting contemporary female photographers, will be sited throughout the property

Napa, CA (April 3, 2023) -- This summer, di Rosa's landscape is transformed into an immersive art experience! [*Natural Discourse*](#), a series of large-scale photographic installations, will be sited throughout the property May 5-October 8, 2023.

Natural Discourse highlights contemporary female photographers – Kija Lucas, Dornith Doherty, Sharon Beals, Uta Kogelsberger, Karoline Hjorth and Riitta Ikonen – who train their lenses on the natural world. Sited among di Rosa's expansive 217 acres, their work interrogates the land's natural, agricultural and human histories.

The exhibition is guest curated by artist and designer Shirley Watts, who has staged previous iterations of the project at the University of California Botanical Garden, Berkeley, and the Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden. Continuing the series, *Natural Discourse @ di Rosa* explores connections between art, science and the humanities by siting artwork in unexpected natural settings.

“We are thrilled to work with Shirley Watts to bring art out of the galleries and into the landscape,” states Executive Director Kate Eilertsen. “By peppering our site with pop-up installations, we honor our institutional mandate to celebrate art and nature in tandem.”

Visitors will encounter a delightful range of large-scale installations. Along the shores of Winery Lake, playful portraits from Hjorth and Ikonen show people embedded in beloved landscapes. Meanwhile, in the Sculpture Meadow, Doherty's sepia-toned electron microscopies of phylloxera blight interrogate the role of biodiversity in the surrounding vineyards. Beals' exquisite photos of birds' nests are blown up and installed in the olive grove, inviting us to crawl

inside. And under the regenerating olive trees, Kija Lucas' scaled-up scans of plants and charred wood tell a story of fire and recovery in the Napa Valley.

Ambling between these diverse installations, visitors will examine their relationship with nature. "Our experience of the non-human world has changed profoundly since we all started carrying screens," Watts explains. By siting images directly in the natural landscape, she encourages us to consider how technological mediation is altering our experience of nature.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Kija Lucas is a San Francisco-based artist who uses photography to explore ideas of home, heritage and inheritance. Her work has been exhibited at the International Center for Photography, The Museum of the African Diaspora and the Oakland Museum of California, among other institutions.

Dornith Doherty is an American artist working primarily with photography, concerned with human entanglement in our rapidly changing environment. A 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellow, her work has been featured in exhibitions widely in the US and abroad at institutions including the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the National Academy of Sciences.

Sharon Beals is the author and photographer of *Nests: Fifty Nests and the Birds that Built Them*, which documents nest and egg specimens dating from the 1800s to present day held in natural history collections. Her work has been exhibited at the National Academy of Sciences and San Francisco International Airport, among other institutions.

Karoline Hjorth and **Riitta Ikonen** are two artists behind *Eyes as Big as Plates*, an ongoing collaborative project which documents characters inhabiting natural landscapes, in wearable sculptures created in collaboration with the artists. *Eyes as Big as Plates* is currently touring with the Norwegian National Museum and has previously been shown at Fotogalleriet (Oslo), Pioneer Works (NYC) and the National Museum of Greenland, amongst others.

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. 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.

#

Media contact: Allison Coats allison@coatspr.com or (707) 363-6508



Karoline Hjorth and Riitta Ikonen
Eyes as Big as Plates # Brit (Norway 2018)
2018

Latex ink Print