

**For Immediate Release:**

Photo below.



**di Rosa**

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## **di Rosa Renews Commitment to Collection of Bay Area Artists and Art**

**Napa, CA (July 14, 2021)** – In 2021, di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is announcing a renewed commitment to the Bay Area artists and art collected by di Rosa founders Rene and Veronica di Rosa. di Rosa’s Board of Directors and staff have unanimously embraced the decision to slow the process of deaccessioning the collection.

In 2019, the di Rosa Foundation — which maintains fiscal oversight of the di Rosa collection — announced plans for a rapid and large-scale reduction of the collection. This was met with grave disappointment from the arts community and, in 2020, the organization responded by making the decision to dramatically slow the deaccessioning process.

“Only 15 artworks have been deaccessioned according to our collections committee policies,” said di Rosa Collections Committee Chair Lorna Stevens. “We have adopted a process that is more rigorous than rapid, with evaluation criteria that includes expert opinions, condition assessments and independent research. Our goal is to maintain the spirit and interest of Rene and Veronica di Rosa in a way that honors and reflects the rich historic diversity of Bay Area artists.”

This endeavor was brought to fruition under the new leadership of Executive Director Kate Eilertsen. “With Kate’s leadership, we now believe the organization can meet its goal of financial sustainability through a mix of fiscal responsibility, an increased donor base, and the best and most strategic uses of the collection,” said Linda Fine, di Rosa Board of Directors Co-Chair, adding that di Rosa is committed to the collection and artists of Northern California through its exhibitions, programs, educational resources and growing digital presence.

“di Rosa holds one of the largest collections of art from Northern California, and has long served as an important resource for contemporary artists from the Bay Area,” said Eilertsen. “We are committed to serving as responsible stewards of that legacy by preserving, exhibiting and providing interpretive context for the collection, as well as showing new works by a diverse range of artists working in the area today.”

The organization’s robust 2021-2022 exhibition schedule reflects these institutional priorities. *The Incorrect Museum: Vignettes from the di Rosa Collection* — on view through summer 2022 — features more than 125 works by collection artists including Joan Brown, Peter Voulkos, Jim Melchert, Roy De Forest and Carlos Villa, organized into six vignettes that capture the rebellious artistic communities that emerged in the Bay Area in the second half of the 20th century. Concurrently, solo exhibitions of work

by William T. Wiley, Oliver Lee Jackson, Erik Scollon and Adia Millett will reflect di Rosa’s continued commitment to nurturing the region’s arts ecosystem.

**ABOUT DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art presents contemporary exhibitions and educational programs for all ages and maintains a permanent collection of notable works by artists living or working in the San Francisco Bay Area from the mid-20th century to the present day. A wide range of styles, media and subject matter provide an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. In the Napa Valley’s famed Carneros region, di Rosa features multiple galleries, a sculpture park and a 35-acre lake, all located on 217 scenic acres, protected in perpetuity under the Napa County Land Trust. di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, Napa. The campus is currently open to the public Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11 a.m to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.dirosaart.org](http://www.dirosaart.org).



Pictured above: "For Veronica" by Mark di Suvero