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## *William Allan: Negotiations with Eden*

Saturday, February 11 – Sunday, May 14, 2023

Napa, Ca. (January 30, 2023) – William Allan, painter and key figure in the history of Northern California art, receives his first major museum exhibition in thirty years at di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art. Opening February 11 and running through May 14, 2023, *Negotiations with Eden* explores the twists and turns of Allan's long career.

"We are thrilled to explore the many dimensions of Allan's practice in this far-reaching career survey," explains di Rosa's chief curator, Kate Eilertsen. "He is one of our region's most compelling and important artists whose work deserves a fresh look. His recent output, much of which has never been exhibited, feels surprisingly contemporary and impactful."

Known primarily as a painter, the show reveals the full breadth of Allan's practice with the inclusion of installation art, photography and a series of masterfully rendered miniature paintings on lima beans. His intense focus on the natural world is the thread that binds this exhibition and his career.

The title *Negotiations with Eden* comes from a large mixed media piece showing a coiled snake in what appears to be a basement, wind billowing the curtains above. Instead of appearing to be a threat to human innocence, the snake seems vulnerable. In a twist of metaphors, maybe it represents the garden itself, threatened by the built environment.

Allan's work is defined by an undisputed technical mastery of painting and drawing. But it's his irreverent sense of humor and fixation on the natural world that make it an ideal fit for di Rosa. It's been decades since Allan's work has been in a major exhibition, so why now? Curatorial Associate Twyla Ruby insists, "Allan's work is more relevant now than ever. This generation is living the reality of our natural world in crisis that William Allan has been investigating for many years."

All are welcome to celebrate the opening of *William Allan: Negotiations with Eden* on Saturday, February 11 from 5:30-7:00 pm in Gallery 1 at di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art. Members plus one guest are free while non-members are \$10. Reservations encouraged. More details about the opening will be announced soon, in the meantime please visit <https://www.dirosaart.org/exhibitions/> for additional information.

### **ARTIST BIO**

After receiving his B.F.A. from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1958, Allan emerged as a leading figure in San Francisco's burgeoning funk scene, organizing the seminal "Repair Show" at Berkeley Gallery and

landing a 1972 solo exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art. A luminary of Northern California art, his work can be found in numerous collections including the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Crocker Art Museum and the Anderson Collection at Stanford University, among 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. Public tours are offered Friday and Sunday at 1:30pm and on Saturdays at 11:30am and 1:30pm. 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](http://www.dirosaart.org).

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