



di Rosa

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*Annette Goodfriend, Interopus, 2023, epoxy, paint, steel, laboratory clamp. Photo by John Janca, courtesy of the artist and di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art.*

## ***Bridging Art and Science, New Exhibition Highlights Environmental Concerns***

*In Second Nature at di Rosa Downtown, Annette Goodfriend, Ruth Tabancay, and Esther Traugot craft dream-like representations of the natural world.*

Napa, CA (February 6, 2025) – di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is pleased to announce *Second Nature*, a new exhibition coming to di Rosa Downtown. [Second Nature](#) will be on view at di Rosa's downtown satellite gallery March 8 – June 1, with an [Opening Reception](#) March 8, 3 – 5 p.m.

*Second Nature* features work by three Northern California artists: **Annette Goodfriend, Ruth Tabancay, and Esther Traugot**. Straddling the line between art and science, these artists craft dream-like representations of the natural world. Using varied media, ranging from organic materials such as insects, urchin shells, and tea bags to industrial steel and rubber, Goodfriend, Tabancay, and Traugot examine the changes human activity has wrought upon the world, and the need to better care for all the planet's creatures.



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Working primarily with epoxy, resin, rubber, wax, and plaster, Annette Goodfriend creates sculptures that explore human anatomy, often hybridized or contrasted with non-human animal or plant forms. Goodfriend's works featured in *Second Nature* depict an oceanic world in retreat: starfish crawling on human finger-like limbs, sea life held in anthropomorphic vise grips, an ambulatory kelp forest. Drawing on her background studies in genetics, Goodfriend's work explores human interdependence with our oceans and seas, even as warming waters threaten this fragile ecosystem.

With a background in bacteriology and medicine, Ruth Tabancay's work combines textile techniques that she taught herself as a child — crochet and knitting — with an interest in environmental issues such as the bleaching of the coral reefs, the ability of some micro-organisms to digest plastic, and ecological systems such as mycorrhizal networks and bee colonies. Using materials as varied as tea bags, thread, yarn, beeswax, and sugar, Tabancay weaves and stitches micro-organisms digesting plastic, coral reefs constructed around plastic medical waste, and macro colonies of the bacteria that is on us and in us.

Esther Traugot grew up in an idealistic farming community during the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970's, an experience which influences the relationship between herself and the natural world on view in her work. Stitching with her own hand-dyed golden yarns, she crochets wrappings in and around found natural objects — bees, trees, sea urchin shells — nurturing, protecting, and making them whole again.

di Rosa Downtown is di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art's temporary satellite gallery in downtown Napa. di Rosa Downtown features rotating exhibitions drawn from the di Rosa collection and highlighting new works by artists currently living and working in Northern California.

*Second Nature* will be on view at di Rosa Downtown Saturday, March 8 through Sunday, June 1. di Rosa Downtown is free and open to the public Thursday – Sunday, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at 1300 First St, Suite 251, Napa.

di Rosa Downtown will host an [Artist's Talk](#) related to *Second Nature* on Sunday, April 27, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Goodfriend, Tabancay, and Traugot will be joined in conversation with Michael O'Donnell, Deputy Director of UC Davis Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute, to discuss challenges facing marine environments and the remediating potential of the visual arts.

Organized by Annette Goodfriend, a version of this exhibition was previously mounted at Marin Art and Garden Center in 2024.

di Rosa Downtown is presented in partnership with First Street Napa and Zapolski Real Estate LLC.

**ABOUT DI ROSA CENTER FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**



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di Rosa is a non-profit art center and nature preserve specializing in the art of Northern California. Located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, on 217 acres in the Carneros region of Napa, di Rosa includes two large art galleries, a beautiful lake, abundant birding, walking trails with vineyard views, outdoor sculptures, and picnic grounds.

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 2000s.

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 without reservations Thursday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and by appointment Tuesday through Wednesday. Visitors are encouraged to bring picnics. For more information visit [www.dirosaart.org](http://www.dirosaart.org).

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