

# di Rosa



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## **di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art Opens New Exhibitions and Commissions in 2020**

**Napa, California, February 13, 2020** – di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art is pleased to present new exhibitions and commissions for the year 2020. *Conversation Pieces* transforms Gallery 1 into a dynamic exhibition and multiuse space through two newly commissioned projects: an exhibition of works by San Francisco–based artist Davina Semo and a large-scale interactive installation by Providence-based artist Jim Drain. In Gallery 2, a major survey of works by artist Deborah Remington opens in May. A wide range of exhibition tours, artist talks, and educational public programs relating to the exhibitions are scheduled. For more information regarding the programs, events, tickets, and tour reservations, visit [dirosaart.org](http://dirosaart.org).

### **Two Artist Commissions Debut in Gallery 1 with *Conversation Pieces***

*Conversation Pieces* showcases newly commissioned works by emerging and midcareer artists that spark dialogue with the artistic legacy of Northern California. This series continues di Rosa’s ongoing interest in supporting the production of new work and is

notable for expanding the organization's programmatic scope to include artists working both in and outside of the Bay Area.

***Davina Semo: Core Reflections***

January 29–June 28, 2020

Public reception: Saturday, February 22, 2020, 2:30 – 5:00 pm

Gallery 1

Davina Semo works across two and three dimensions, often utilizing industrial materials that examine tensions between nature, society, and the self. Her exhibition for di Rosa considers the unique setting of Gallery 1 in relation to the landscape and as a site of public assembly.

Semo's past works have looked for inspiration to ubiquitous aspects of the urban environment, much like key Beat-era Funk artists who found potential in overlooked, abject materials of the everyday and defined Northern California assemblage art of the 1950s and 1960s. *Core Reflections* expands this conversation by drawing upon the industrial architecture of di Rosa's gallery space in the context of the natural Northern California terrain.

Recent travels to Greece inspired the artist's emphasis on the Gallery 1 platform as an entry point for the viewer, conjuring the concept of the ancient agora (open public gathering space). The exhibition builds on Semo's series of reflective wall-based works and suspended wax-cast bronze bells that invite viewers to walk around their forms and engage in their utility as instruments for expressing a call to attention. Acrylic and metal mesh substrates tethered with 3D-printed casts of the sensuous skyfruit mahogany seed pod examine the interrelationship between industrial materials and natural forms. Semo underscores the precarious state of the environment, visible from the glass-encased gallery, while offering a contemplative space for self-reflection.

**About Davina Semo**

Davina Semo (b. 1981, Washington, DC) has shown extensively throughout the United States and Europe, including solo exhibitions at Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, and Marlborough Chelsea, New York. Group exhibitions include *Hair and Skin*, Derek Eller Gallery, New York (2013); *TOUCHPIECE*, Hannah Hoffman Gallery, Los Angeles (2017); and *Show Me as I Want to Be Seen*, Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco (2019). Semo lives and works in San Francisco. She earned her BA at Brown University in 2003 and her MFA from the University of California, San Diego, in 2006. [davinasemo.net](http://davinasemo.net)

***Jim Drain: Membrane***

February 19–December 27, 2020

Public reception: Saturday, February 22, 2020, 2:30 –5:00 pm

Gallery 1

Jim Drain's long-term installation at di Rosa is the artist's first solo commission in Northern California. Drain was a member of Forcefield, a seminal Providence, Rhode Island-based collective active from 1996 to 2002 that explored the merging of music, performance, film, and installation into one platform. His independent works range from rambunctious two- and three-dimensional textile collages made from reclaimed fabrics to large-scale, immersive public art projects taking the form of vibrant murals, sculptures, or furniture. Drain's collective and interdisciplinary background, coupled with his intuitive, irreverent blend of assemblage, craft, and form, resonates with the distinctive spirit of the Bay Area and its artistic legacy.

Drain's signature mode of assemblage uses large welded-steel frames to tether rag-rug-like braided and ribboned fabrics. For *Membrane*, Drain adapts this approach to create a fully functional seating installation using vintage aluminum lounge chair frames as its point of departure. The webbing for each piece is comprised of vibrant, hand-knotted paracord macramé designs inspired specifically by the Sebastopol-based artist Alexandra Jacopetti Hart and more broadly by the Bay Area's rich 1960s and 1970s history of craft

and handwork. This furniture system will be bathed in a pink glow cast from the skylights above and include custom mobile macramé screens that allow visitors to create their own spaces.

Drain's interactive, immersive installation is designed to serve as a long-term multiuse setting for a range of activities and events, as well as an area for lounging, reading, and daydreaming amid di Rosa's idyllic landscape. Made for and completed by the viewer, Membrane connects visitors with a lineage of countercultural dreamers who deployed craft and handwork as a means to achieve a more democratic and inclusive world.

### **About Jim Drain**

Jim Drain (b. 1975, Cleveland, Ohio) is a multimedia artist based in Providence, Rhode Island. He was a member of the collective Forcefield, which was active from 1996 to 2002 and was included in the 2002 Whitney Biennial. He has participated in solo and group exhibitions at such venues as the University of Florida, Gainesville; Locust Projects, Miami; the Blanton Museum, University of Texas, Austin; John Michael Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin; The Garage, Moscow; The Pit, Los Angeles; Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York; Nina Johnson, Miami; and Parker Gallery, Los Angeles. Drain's work is in the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Pérez Art Museum, Miami; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the RISD Museum, Providence; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Drain received his BFA in sculpture from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1998. [jimdrain.info](http://jimdrain.info)

*Conversation Pieces* is curated by Amy Owen, former curator at di Rosa. Owen is currently exhibitions and public programs manager at McEvoy Foundation for the Arts, San Francisco.

## **Deborah Remington's Major Institutional Survey Opens di Rosa's Gallery 2 in 2020**

### ***Deborah Remington: Kaleidoscopic Vision***

May 13–November 29, 2020

Public Reception: Saturday, May 16, 2020, 4–5:30 pm

### **Gallery 2**

***Deborah Remington: Kaleidoscopic Vision*** is the artist's first major institutional survey show in the Bay Area in more than thirty-five years. The exhibition presents the arc of Remington's career from the late 1940s to the mid-2000s through some sixty artworks and a broad selection of archival material. A timeline begins with her student work; progresses to her mature paintings and drawings; and ends with highly embellished works from the last two decades of her life.

After decades of intermittent attention, Remington's work is finally undergoing a steady rediscovery. Her paintings bring together both flatness and depth, abstraction and illusionism, in luminous, hard-edged compositions that resemble machines, emblems, or shields. This exhibition reconsiders these forms in the context of US postwar technological ascendancy and Remington's relationship with such contemporaneous art historical developments as Minimalism and Light and Space.

### **About Deborah Remington**

Since the artist's passing in 2010, Deborah Remington's paintings and drawings have been regularly included in major solo and group exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, and Berlin; for instance a solo exhibition of her gestural work from the 1990s was exhibited at Kimmerich Galerie, Berlin, in 2018. Her work has also been featured in groundbreaking exhibitions such as the Denver Art Museum's *Women of Abstract Expressionism* (2016). Remington was the recipient of numerous grants and awards in her lifetime, including a Guggenheim Fellowship (1984), a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship (1979), and a Tamarind Fellowship (1973). She was elected to the

National Academy of Design in 1999 and received a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant that same year. [deborahremington.com](http://deborahremington.com)

*Deborah Remington: Kaleidoscopic Vision* is curated by Nancy Lim, assistant curator of painting and sculpture at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, in collaboration with the Deborah Remington Charitable Trust for the Visual Arts, New York.

### **About di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art**

di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art seeks to engage people of all ages with ideas that matter through the art of our time. We do this by presenting compelling exhibitions coupled with extensive educational programs and strategic partnerships serving thousands of residents in this community. Central to our work is the participation of artists and the spirit of experimentation, collaboration, inclusion, and our community. di Rosa features multiple galleries, a sculpture park, and a 35-acre lake located on 217 scenic acres in Napa Valley's famed Carneros region that are protected in perpetuity under the Napa County Land Trust. di Rosa is located at 5200 Sonoma Highway, Napa. The galleries are open Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m. A wide range of exhibition tours, artist talks, and other educational and public programs related to the exhibitions are scheduled throughout the year. For more information visit [dirosaart.org](http://dirosaart.org).

For more information, images, or interview requests, please contact Ronny Joe Grooms at [marketing@dirosaart.org](mailto:marketing@dirosaart.org) or (707) 226-5991 x34

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