

Educator Guide

In August 2008, Gallery Crawl visited the di Rosa Preserve in Napa, California to view parts of Rene di Rosa's extensive San Francisco Bay Area art collection and the current contemporary exhibition, **There! New Art from Oakland**. This guide provides resources for educators to support the utilization of this online virtual visit to teach about the di Rosa Preserve and its multiple galleries. The Gallery Crawl video can be found at www.KOED.org/gallerycrawl. Information about taking your students to the di Rosa Preserve can be found at the bottom of this guide.

Exhibit *The di Rosa Preserve* and ***THERE! New Art from Oakland***

Location di Rosa Preserve, Napa, CA [Google Map](#)

Grades K – 12

Visual Arts Standards Addressed Artistic Perception, Creative Expression, Aesthetic Valuing

The di Rosa Preserve: Art and Nature

Located on 217 scenic acres in the Carneros region of the Napa Valley, the di Rosa Preserve celebrates the power and spirit of the art and artists of Northern California in an extraordinary setting. The site is rich in flora and fauna and its open space is home or a migratory stopping point for a fascinating array of wildlife, including Canada Geese, the Blue Heron, Snowy Egrets and the founder's peacocks. The Preserve's internationally-recognized collection of Bay Area art features 2,200 works in all media, including painting, sculpture, ceramics, and video by artists working from the 1960s to the present. Originally assembled by Rene and the late Veronica di Rosa over four decades, the collection continues to grow as new acquisitions are added to the galleries and grounds.

For an individual, the process of collecting art is usually very personal and may change over time. While some collectors amass objects based on personal preference, others may collect for historical posterity, or as a vehicle for financial speculation, expecting their collections to increase in value. Di Rosa maintains that the artworks in this collection, which is the most diverse and extensive collection of Bay Area artists in the world, were selected based on his own ever-expanding tastes. He established the non-profit di Rosa Preserve because he wanted the public to be able to see for themselves the quality and range of the work being created by Bay Area artists -- "Divinely regional, superbly parochial, wondrously provincial -- an absolute native glory."

The Current Exhibition

There! New Art from Oakland is the di Rosa Preserve's current exhibition in the Gatehouse Gallery and it explores the creative talent in Oakland today. Oakland, long-time-host to a vital visual arts community, has recently begun to receive widespread regional and national recognition for the range and quality of its artists and a growing group of new galleries devoted in large part to contemporary art. Organized by di Rosa Preserve curator Michael Schwager, **There!** presents a cross-section of contemporary artists who live and work in Oakland and contribute to the energy and vitality of Bay Area art. Aiming to preserve the spirit of Rene di Rosa, who has a strong interest in "discovering the undiscovered," curator Michael Schwager visited more than fifty Oakland art studios before selecting works from twenty artists.

Teaching with Gallery Crawl

Using video in the classroom can breathe life and meaning into almost any lesson. In the arts, video can be particularly effective for introducing large concepts, aspects of the creative process, and key arts-related vocabulary to introduce students to discipline-based and concept-based study. Using media in the classroom helps connect students with faraway places and promotes critical viewing skills and media awareness. For more information about using media in the classroom download KQED's [Media Tips](#) teaching tool (a direct link is provided in the resource section of this guide).

Using a Gallery Crawl video in the classroom allows student to virtually view a local art exhibit, while listening to firsthand information about exhibitions from curators and artists. In order to present Gallery Crawl to your entire class, you will need a projector and computer with the capacity to stream video. Alternatively, assign students to watch it on their own or in groups. After soliciting student responses to the video, continue the lesson by implementing hands-on or discussion activities to deepen the impact of the media – ideas are provided in this guide.

Making the Most of your Virtual Visit

The following activity ideas and discussion questions may be used in the classroom after viewing the Gallery Crawl Video, **and/or** after a school tour of the di Rosa Preserve.

- ❖ After viewing the Gallery Crawl video or visiting the di Rosa Preserve, ask students to address one of the questions below in a “free writing” exercise. A “free write” is a timed exercise (10-20 minutes) where students write non-stop without making any corrections; writing whatever comes to their minds without self-censoring or judging their writing.
 - Which piece of art at the di Rosa Preserve speaks to you most, and why?
 - Many of the artworks in the di Rosa collection incorporate “found” or everyday objects. What are some of the objects you recognized, and how were they transformed to convey a message?

After the “free writing” exercise, ask students to share and discuss their responses.

- ❖ Suggest that students create their own collection idea, working together to decide what types of objects are going to be collected and the budget available to spend. Invite each student to propose an idea for the collection, researching their choice and assembling a complete historical and financial background of the objects/artworks to support their proposal. Each student should then make their “pitch” to the group, arguing the case as to why it should be these objects/works into which the class invests. After each student has presented – take a silent vote.
- ❖ Divide students into 2 groups. Challenge one group of students to look at a work of art in the Gallery Crawl video with the audio turned *off*, and then write a short description. Challenge another group to look at the same work of art in the video with the audio *on*, noting the information provided, and then write a short description. Ask each group to present their experience. Ask students to explain the differences in their descriptions. What impact does the information provided by the narration have on the viewing experience? How does this change the way the work is seen?

Visiting the di Rosa Preserve

The di Rosa Preserve is located in Napa, California. The **THERE! New Art from Oakland** exhibition will be on view through September 20, 2008 and portions of the di Rosa collection are on view year-round. www.dirosapreserve.org

If possible, take your students on a field trip to the di Rosa Preserve and participate in a free school tour led by the preserve's docents. Visit the "School Tours" page on the di Rosa Preserve Web site for more information: <http://www.dirosapreserve.org/schooltours.html>

Resources to extend learning about the exhibit, the collection, and featured artists

di Rosa Preserve Web site www.dirosapreserve.org

KQED Spark documentary about the [di Rosa Preserve](#).
An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about [Creative Growth Art Center](#) and **Judith Scott**, an artist featured in the **There! Art from Oakland** exhibit.

KQED Spark documentary about [Favianna Rodriguez](#), an artist featured in the **There! Art from Oakland** exhibit. An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about [Viola Frey](#), a ceramic artist whose work is included in the di Rosa collection. An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about [Paul Kos](#), a conceptual artist whose work is included in the di Rosa collection. An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about [Richard Shaw](#), a ceramic artist whose work is included in the di Rosa collection. An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

KQED Spark documentary about [Sandow Birk](#), a painter whose work is included in the di Rosa collection. An in-depth Spark Educator Guide accompanies this video.

Many more artists included in the di Rosa collection have also been featured on KQED's Spark program. These artists include **Fletcher Benton, David Best, Henry Wessel, Catherine Wagner, Richard Serra, Bill Owens, Nathan Oliveira, Charles Linder, Mike Henderson, and Jim Campbell**. Spark videos about these artists can be found by clicking the "Artist Profiles" link on the Spark Web site.

Visit the KQED Spark Web site for additional Educator Guides and videos about other local contemporary artists at www.KQED.org/spark. Also available are educator resources on media literacy and production, using video in the classroom, standards-based arts instruction, program development, and more.

For more information about KQED's Arts Education resources, send an email to ArtsEd@KQED.org or call 800.723.3566.

Direct Links

- Gallery Crawl: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/gallerycrawl/>
- KQED "Media Tips" Tool: <http://www.kqed.org/assets/pdf/arts/programs/spark/video.pdf>
- Di Rosa Preserve Spark video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4359>
- Creative Growth Spark Video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4308>
- Favianna Rodriguez Spark Video:
<http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=18090>
- Viola Frey Spark Video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4954>
- Enrique Chagoya Spark Video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=4375>
- Paul Kos Spark Video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=5425>
- Sandow Birk Spark Video: <http://www.kqed.org/arts/programs/spark/profile.jsp?essid=8047>
- Google Map to the di Rosa Art and Nature Preserve:
<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=5200+Carneros+Highway+121,+Napa,+California+94559&sll=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=64.497063,112.5&ie=UTF8&ll=38.266893,-122.342377&spn=0.060515,0.109863&z=13&iwloc=cent>