Press Release

For Immediate Release
Contact: Jennifer Bethke
jbethke@museumsc.org
(707) 579-1500 x108
Museum of Sonoma County
425 Seventh St
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
museumsc.org
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MUSEUM
of SONOMA COUNTY
ART • HISTORY

Museum of Sonoma County Presents

UNRULY: North Bay Artists from the San Francisco Art Institute

February 15 – June 8, 2025

Public Opening and Reception: Saturday, February 15, 2025from 5 – 7pm

Santa Rosa, CA – (January 2) The Museum of Sonoma County is pleased to present *UNRULY: North Bay Artists from the San Francisco Art Institute*, which will be on display February 15 – June 8, 2025. The exhibition honors the legacy of the San Francisco Art Institute (SFAI), the oldest and most influential fine arts school on the West Coast, which shut its doors in 2022 after 150 years of dynamic art making.

The *UNRULY* exhibition specifically focuses on the impact and influence of SFAI in the North Bay. The show features the work of 18 regional artists, spanning multiple generations, who either studied or taught at the Art Institute. Collectively, they embody the spirit of boundary-pushing and experimentation that the school so famously fostered, affirmed, and supported.

The participating artists are: Richard H. Alpert, Chester Arnold, David Best, Mark Grieve, Robert Hudson, Anton Kuehnhackl, Evri Kwong, Virginia Linder, Janis Crystal Lipzin, Phil McGaughy, naomi murakami, Sam Roloff, Alice Shaw, Simone Simon, Liz Steketee, Inez Storer, Hwei-Li Tsao, and Heather Wilcoxon.

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UNRULY includes over 30 works in a variety of media including painting, mixed media, photography, and sculpture. Two performance art pieces by SFAI alumni will be featured during the opening reception, which runs February 15, 2025 from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

SFAI was founded in 1871 by northern California artists and intellectuals who envisioned it as a key nexus for art and culture in the American West. By the twentieth century, SFAI had become renowned as a school that provided its students with space to inquire, experiment, and even rebel. SFAI students were taught the rules so they could break them, and perhaps predictably this exploration of radical approaches and mediums could at times produce chaos and controversy. The process of learning could be challenging, or even wrenching; but the school provided a safe place for artists to explore new angles, and unique platforms to convey their perspectives and speak their minds.

UNRULY is guest curated by Jude Mooney, and is sponsored in part by SF Artists Alumni (SFAA). Mooney is an alumna of SFAI (BFA, Photography) and Sonoma County's Liaison for the SFAA. Both Mooney and the SFAA are keen to carry the mantle of SFAI forward, despite the Institute's unfortunate closure. SFAA organized an alumni exhibition at Chico's Museum of Northern California Art in 2024, and is planning additional future exhibitions as well.

Says Mooney, "After the closure of the school, keeping the spirit of SFAI alive through alumni exhibitions is one way to showcase artists, and artists who are challenging the status quo. Especially in times like these, when politics and wars are dividing nations, it is more important than ever to teach young people to think outside the box and speak their minds."

An exhibition catalog is being produced by SFAA in conjunction with the show, which will be available for purchase in the Museum of Sonoma County's gift shop, and online via print-on-demand orders.

UNRULY: North Bay Artists from the San Francisco Art Institute is generously supported by: SF Artists Alumni, Nancy Glaze, Estelle Rogers, David Salm, and Inez Storer. In-kind donations provided by Meyer Family Cellars and Upper Ranch Vineyard.

Programs and Events

Public Opening and Reception
February 15, 2025 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm
Free Admission

SFAA Spotlight | Liz Steketee
March 3rd, 2025 at 10:00 am
Free Online Program featuring artist Liz Steketee in conversation with *UNRULY* curator Jude Mooney

Additional public programs related to the exhibition will be posted at: www.museumsc.org/events

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Museum of Sonoma County

425 Seventh Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-579-1500
www.museumsc.org

Museum Hours

Wednesday - Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm

Admission

Adults: $10
Seniors 62+, Students, People with Disabilities: $7
Museum Members: FREE
Children 12 & under: FREE
Through Museums for All, those receiving food assistance (SNAP benefits) can gain free admission for up to four (4) people to the Museum of Sonoma County simply by presenting their EBT card.

About the Museum of Sonoma County

Located in Downtown Santa Rosa on Seventh Street between A and B Streets, the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) presents exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and local and regional history. MSC is open year-round with changing exhibitions, public programs, school tours, and special events. MSC preserves and manages a regional art and history collection of over 18,000 objects, the region's largest object documentation of Sonoma County's history and culture.

Mission

The Museum of Sonoma County engages and inspires our diverse community with art and history exhibitions, collections, and public programs that are inclusive, educational, and relevant.

Smithsonian Affiliate

The Museum of Sonoma County has been a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2009. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes long-term partnerships with museums, education and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as to develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally. Created in 1996 by an act of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the program is overseen by the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Education and Access and is one of the pillars of the Institution's national outreach efforts. There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, Puerto Rico and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum community—size, location and subject— and serve all audiences. More than 8,000 Smithsonian artifacts have been displayed at Affiliate locations for the past 20 years.

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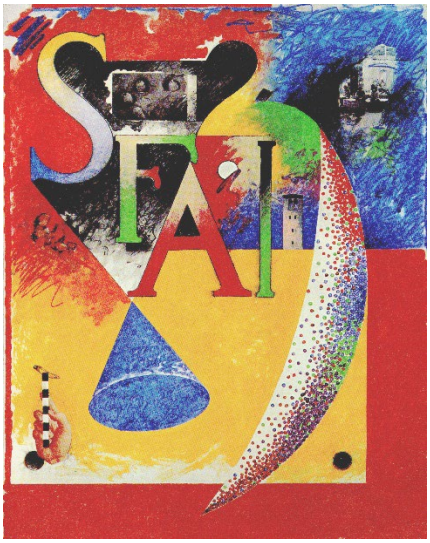
Exhibition Images (click here to view and download)

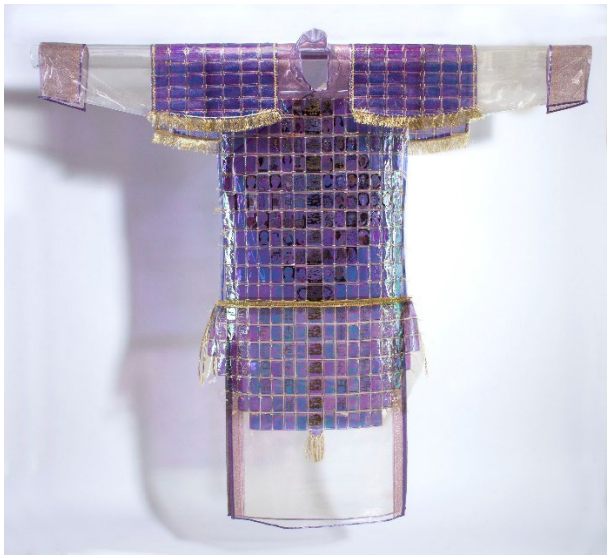


Robert Hudson, *SFAI Poster,* 1979
acrylic, colored pencil and collage on paper
Collection of Alan Porter and Paul Hoge

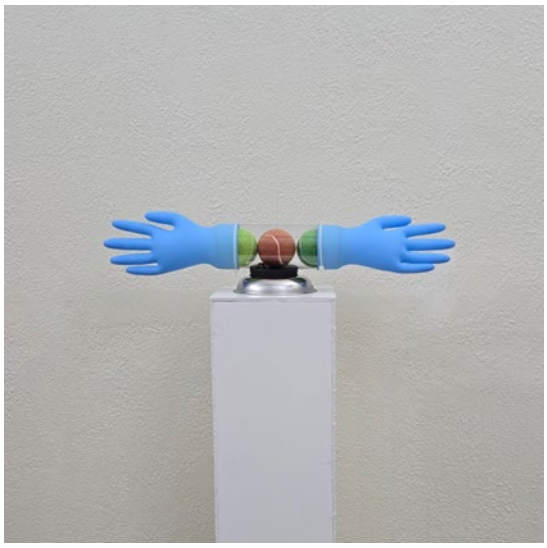
Heather Wilcoxon, *Plastic Ocean*, 2024
oil on canvas
Courtesy of the artist

Chester Arnold, *Collection*, 2011
oil on linen
Courtesy of the artist

Simone Simon, *Unshrinking*, 2024
acrylic on canvas
Courtesy of the artist



Hwei-Li Tsao, *Modern Armor*, 2014
polyvinyl, tulle, threads, paper and marker
Courtesy of the artist



Richard H. Alpert, *Glad/Sad (inflated)*, 2022-24
latex gloves, wood cabinet, electronically controlled air pump system, tennis balls, polycarbonate clear tube, cable ties
Courtesy of the artist

Phil McGaughy, *Cape Henlopen*, 2009
wood and tracing paper
Courtesy of the artist

Alice Shaw, *Magnolia 11*, 2024
archival pigment ink with gold leaf
Courtesy of the artist

Anton Kuehnhackl*, Sunday Chairs, But it's Not Even Mass Yet!?,* 2020
archival inkjet print
Courtesy of the artist

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