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Lost and Found: ***Elisheva Biernoff and Floris Schönfeld*** February 22 to April 27, 2014

OPENING RECEPTION: Feb. 22, 6–8 p.m. / Free
Members' Preview 5–6 p.m.

NAPA, Calif., Jan. 21, 2014—di Rosa brings together two Bay Area artists who share a fascination with the overlooked and the unfamiliar in the new exhibition *Lost and Found: Elisheva Biernoff and Floris Schönfeld*. Through a range of media including painting, sculpture, text, film, installation, and ephemera, artists **Elisheva Biernoff** and **Floris Schönfeld** present work that considers the extinct, the endangered, and the forgotten.

Elisheva Biernoff investigates possible narratives through trompe l'oeil renderings of found and invented artifacts. Her series *Last Postcards* imagines the last communications of famous lost explorers through double-sided paintings on thin plywood. Biernoff conducts careful research into her subject's lives along with a close examination of each cultural moment, from printing processes to what kind of stamps may have been used, to create the most convincing rendering possible.

In another series, Biernoff recreates found photographs as photo-realistic paintings, presenting them in pairs. Through similarities in the subjects' natural settings and side-by-side positioning, the coupled works suggest a shared experience and an infinite number of plausible narratives. Like *Last Postcards*, the renderings take on the form of relics, passing as authentic at first glance while offering subtle hints to what is real and what is fabricated upon closer examination.

Floris Schönfeld explores lost histories and the realm of belief with *The Damagomi Project*. Through multifaceted research and installation, Schönfeld presents a critical phase of his ongoing project—the retelling of the Damagomi, a forgotten group of loosely affiliated spiritualists and academics who sought ways to communicate with the natural world in Northern California. Using display tactics similar to that of a natural history museum, Schönfeld presents his findings in line with the history of the Bay Area and provides an opportunity to reflect on the relationship between man and nature. The installation will feature multiple experiments that will shift and change over the course of the exhibition, prompting viewers to join the artist's journey of investigation and rediscovery.



Elisheva Biernoff, *Last Postcard: Bas Jan Ader*, 2009. Acrylic on plywood. Courtesy of the artist and Kadist Art Foundation.



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"This exhibition encourages careful looking and deep listening, inviting viewers to pause, develop their own stories, and come to their own conclusions," said Curator Amy Owen. "Biernoff and Schönfeld create nuanced ambiguities through their use of real world artifacts as suggestions of alternate realities. In doing so, the artists provide space for viewers to ask questions, to be curious, and to explore their own experience."



Floris Schönfeld, *The Damagomi Project* (detail), 2013. Mixed media installation. Courtesy of the artist.

***Lost and Found: Elisheva Biernoff and Floris Schönfeld* is on view in di Rosa's Gatehouse Gallery, Feb. 22–April 27, 2014. Visit diRosaArt.org for more information.**

To schedule an interview with the artists and/or curator, or for image requests, contact Stephanie King: stephanie@dirosaart.org or 707-226-5991 x34.

ABOUT DI ROSA: Located on 217 acres in the Carneros region of Napa Valley, di Rosa houses the foremost collection of contemporary Bay Area art, with nearly 2,000 works by 800 artists. A wide range of styles, media, and subject matter provide an overview of the creative energy and freedom to experiment that characterize this region of California. For more information, hours, and tour schedules, visit diRosaArt.org.

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