

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART

For Immediate Release

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART EXPLORES FOOD THROUGH CONTEMPORARY ART THIS FALL

Around the Table: food, creativity, community is catalyst for a South Bay festival of food and the arts

SAN JOSE, California (August, 2013) — This fall, the San Jose Museum of Art will present a suite of exhibitions and programs that explore the role that food plays in our lives. *Around the Table: food, creativity, community* will unfold in three stages at SJMA and extend far beyond the Museum walls as 31 partnering organizations throughout the Bay Area—an epicenter of agriculture and “foodie” culture—present related programs and resources through the spring of 2014.

“The agricultural bounty of this region has brought waves of immigration and shaped a rich history of cultural diversity, which we share in part through food. From food carts to food trucks to the locavore movement to molecular gastronomy, food defines communities and personal pleasures.” says Susan Krane, Oshman Executive Director of SJMA. “In today’s world, food also is charged with meaning for everyone: it has social, economic, and political implications. Contemporary artists are actively engaged with these issues in ways that are delightful, inspiringly inventive, and activist. Visitors will see food in surprising new ways through this wide-ranging festival of offerings.”

Around the Table opens with a preface—a labyrinthian installation that examines the notion of daily bread in a personal light. ***Jitish Kallat: Epilogue*** will occupy the entirety of SJMA’s South Gallery **September 6, 2013 – April 20, 2014**. In *Epilogue*, internationally acclaimed artist Jitish Kallat honors his late father through a series of photographs of progressively eaten roti (traditional Indian flatbread). Each image represents one of the 22,500 moons that illuminated the night sky during his father’s 62-year lifespan. Kallat tracked the lunar cycle from 1936 to 1998 in order to recreate each night’s moon in roti; no two frames are the same.

On **November 9, 2013**, the second phase of ***Around the Table: food, creativity, community*** opens with special projects and select works by 29 additional contemporary artists. The exhibition revolves around three primary subject areas: healthful eating, food and community, and food issues. Seventeen of the featured artists are creating new work commissioned by SJMA for the exhibition, in which they will tackle topics that range from the histories of breadmaking to mutagenic foods. Artists represented will be: Sita Kuratomi Bhaumik; Center for Genomic Gastronomy (Zackery Denfeld and Cathrine Kramer); Eating in Public (Gaye Chan and Nandita Sharma); Emilie Clark; Pablo Cristi; Sergio de la Torre; Karla Diaz; Fallen Fruit (David Burns and Austin Young); Angela Filo; Futurefarmers (Dan Allende, Ian Cox, Amy Franceschini, and Lode Vranke); Julia Goodman; Robert Karimi; Laura Letinsky; Katja Loher; Kara Maria; Susan O’Malley; Matthew Moore; Phil Ross; Valerie Soe; Kirsten Stolle; Haruko Tanaka; David Taylor; Sam Van Aken; War Gastronomy (Justin Hoover and Chris Treggiari); Dawn Weleski; Rosemary Williams; Chelsea Wills; Mario Ybarra, Jr.; and Rene Yung. The *Around the Table* exhibition will be on view November 9, 2013 – April 20, 2014.

The third stage of *Around the Table*, entitled “**Talk Around the Table**” opens on **December 19** and remains on view **through April 20, 2014**. This participatory social space is an ever-changing gallery where visitors will experience hands-on activities, view documentaries, share ideas about food via social media, and

access additional information. “Talk Around the Table” will also showcase documentation of performance art pieces that will take place throughout the community during the exhibition.

A SOUTH BAY FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND THE ARTS

Thirty-one organizations have partnered with SJMA to present exhibitions, programs, and resources in connection with *Around the Table*. Activities include gleaning tours, visits to farms, edible plants in downtown planters, performances, and exhibitions. Collaborators are: 18 Reasons, San Francisco; Café, Too!, San Jose; Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco; 50 WEST c/o CBRE Inc., San Jose; Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), San Francisco; City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs; Children’s Discovery Museum, San Jose; CommUniverCity/Garden to Table, San Jose; de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara; Emma Prusch Farm Park Foundation, San Jose; Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, San Jose; History San José; India Community Center, Milpitas; KQED Public Media for Northern California; Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), San Jose; Mexican Heritage Plaza, San Jose; Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga; Pajaro Valley Arts Council, Watsonville; Palo Alto Art Center; Peninsula Open Space Trust, Palo Alto; San Jose Downtown Association; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA); San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles; Santa Clara County Farm Bureau; Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, San Carlos; SPUR, San Jose; Team San Jose; Teatro Vision, San Jose; The Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose; Valley Verde, San Jose; Veggielution Community Farm, San Jose; and ZERO1: The Art and Technology Network, San Jose.

SOWING CREATIVITY

In connection with *Around the Table*, SJMA has developed “Sowing Creativity,” an ambitious education program that integrates art and science to teach students about personal health and livable communities. This pilot program, a partnership with Veggielution Community Farm in San Jose, will include lessons at the Museum, hands-on artmaking workshops, and visits to the farm in a cross-disciplinary program that connects to the new Common Core Standards. Nine schools in Santa Clara County have already signed up for this pilot program.

SPONSORS

Around the Table is sponsored by the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation, Donna Dubinsky and Leonard Shustek, the Susan and Bruce Worster Foundation, Applied Materials, Yvonne and Mike Nevens, Rita and Kent Norton, and the Farrington Historical Foundation, with additional support from Casey and Jack Carsten.

Jitish Kallat: Epilogue is sponsored by Dipti and Rakesh Mathur.

“Sowing Creativity” is sponsored by the Walter and Karla Goldschmidt Foundation, Donna Dubinsky and Leonard Shustek, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Cisco Systems Foundation, SanDisk, and Wells Fargo, with additional support from the David B. and Edward C. Goodstein Foundation, the House Family Foundation, Tech CU, Farrington Historical Foundation, San Jose Water Company, and Councilmember Rose Herrera. A festival grant from the Office of Cultural Affairs, City of San José will support food-related activities at SJMA’s Lunar New Year Community Day in February 2014.

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART

The San Jose Museum of Art celebrates new ideas, stimulates creativity, and inspires connection with every visit. Welcoming and thought-provoking, the Museum rejects stuffiness and delights visitors with its surprising and playful perspective on the art and artists of our time. For more information, call 408-271-6840 or visit www.SanJoseMuseumofArt.org.

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