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BAMPFA Mounts First Bay Area Exhibition of Work by Ugo Rondinone

On View June 28–August 27, 2017

Ugo Rondinone: the world just makes me laugh Centers on Rondinone's
Acclaimed Sculpture Series *vocabulary of solitude*



Press Preview: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 10 a.m.

RSVP to afox@berkeley.edu

(Berkeley, CA) May 23, 2017—This summer, the UC Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive ([BAMPFA](http://bampfa.org)) presents a major exhibition of work by Ugo Rondinone, marking the artist's first solo exhibition in the Bay Area. [***Ugo Rondinone: the world just makes me laugh***](#) showcases some of Rondinone's most celebrated and iconic works, which capture the artist's distinctive blend of colorful whimsy and melancholic undertones. The exhibition centers on an immersive, gallery-wide installation consisting of forty-five life-size sculptures of festively attired clowns.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY ART MUSEUM · PACIFIC FILM ARCHIVE
2120 OXFORD STREET #2250 · BERKELEY CA 94720 · 510 643 3994 · bampfa.org

On view from June 28 through August 27, the exhibition features multiple works that highlight Rondinone's interest in the visual iconography of childhood, including four pairs of clown shoes, a series of eight rainbow "sun paintings," a massive lightbulb sculpted from wax, and excerpts from a fictional diary that the artist maintained in 1998. *Ugo Rondinone: the world just makes me laugh* also features a new collage installation created specifically for the exhibition, comprising thousands of children's drawings of rainbows—including several hundred drawings contributed by Bay Area children during school trips and family workshops at BAMPFA.

The centerpiece of the exhibition, *vocabulary of solitude*, fills BAMPFA's gallery space with lifelike clown sculptures, whose prismatic outfits contrast with expressionless faces that convey a delicate sense of wistfulness. Drawing on art historical movements such as Romanticism and Surrealism, the installation also references the aesthetics of popular culture and the classical origins of clowning and mime performance. The forty-five clowns are each named individually based on the actions they perform: sleep, eat, dream, and other daily activities. Together they describe a day in the life of a single person at home during a twenty-four-hour loop of isolation.

The BAMPFA presentation of *Ugo Rondinone: the world just makes me laugh* marks the sole West Coast engagement of what Rondinone has described as a "serial exhibition," variations of which were previously presented at the Museum Boijmans Van Beuningen, Rotterdam (February 2016); Museo D'Arte Contemporanea, Rome (June 2016); and Contemporary Art Center, Cincinnati (May 2017). Following its presentation at BAMPFA, the exhibition will travel to Miami's Bass Museum of Art in fall 2017. The Berkeley exhibition is curated by BAMPFA Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder.

"It's a delight to introduce Northern California audiences to the work of Ugo Rondinone, an artist whose deceptively simple work captures the distinctively bizarre, comic, and gloomy tone of our times," said Rinder. "We're especially pleased to include in this presentation contributions from some of the youngest artists in our own community, and we look forward to welcoming visitors of all ages this summer for an exhibition that reflects BAMPFA's own spirit of inclusiveness and accessibility."

On Saturday, June 3, BAMPFA will host a "[Rainbow Afternoon](#)" for children ages four through ten to create rainbow drawings that Rondinone will incorporate into the exhibition. The event takes place from 1 to 5 p.m. and is free for children plus one accompanying adult. In conjunction with the exhibition opening, Rondinone will present an [artist's talk](#) at BAMPFA on Wednesday, June 28 at 6 p.m., which is free with museum admission. As part of its monthly Family Fare programming, BAMPFA will offer special family-friendly tours coupled with artmaking activities during the exhibition.

Support

Ugo Rondinone: the world just makes me laugh is organized by BAMPFA Director and Chief Curator Lawrence Rinder. The exhibition is made possible with support from the Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia; Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels; Galerie Eva Presenhuber, Zürich/New York; Sadie Coles HQ, London; the Consulate General of Switzerland in San Francisco; and Esther Schipper, Berlin.

prohelvetia

Above

Ugo Rondinone: *vocabulary of solitude*, 2014; milled foam, epoxy resin, and fabric; forty-five parts; dimensions variable; private collection, courtesy of Frahm & Frahm.

Visitor Information

Address

2155 Center Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Hours

Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Information

bampfa.org

(510) 642-0808

Gallery Admission

\$12 general admission

\$10 non-Berkeley students, disabled, 65+

Free for BAMPFA members; UC Berkeley students, faculty, staff, and retirees; 18 & under + one adult

Free First Thursdays: Free gallery admission on the first Thursday of each month

Social Media

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About BAMPFA

An internationally recognized arts institution with deep roots in the Bay Area, the University of California, Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive (BAMPFA) is a forum for cultural experiences that transform individuals and advance the local, national, and global discourse on art and film. BAMPFA is UC Berkeley's premier visual arts venue, presenting more than 450 film screenings, scores of public programs, and up to twenty exhibitions annually. With its vibrant and eclectic programming, BAMPFA inspires the imagination and ignites critical dialogue through art, film, and other forms of creative expression.

The institution's collection of more than 19,000 works of art dates from 3,000 BCE to the present day and includes important holdings of Neolithic Chinese ceramics, Ming and Qing Dynasty Chinese painting, Old Master works on paper, Italian Baroque painting, early American painting, Abstract Expressionist painting, contemporary photography, and Conceptual art. BAMPFA's collection also includes more than 17,500 films and videos, including the largest collection of Japanese cinema outside of Japan, impressive holdings of Soviet cinema, West Coast avant-garde film, seminal video art, as well as hundreds of thousands of articles, reviews, posters, and other ephemera related to the history of film.