



## REZENDES and Friends

The exhibition *Rezendes and Friends* charts the artistic history of **Joyce Rezendes**, as well as creative interactions with artist friends during the culturally rich era of the San Francisco Bay Area from the 1950s onward. Following a chance encounter with Manuel Neri in Santa Barbara, Rezendes soon found herself in the Bay Area and exhibiting at the artist co-op 6 Gallery in San Francisco in 1956. She quickly became immersed in the artistic community that involved Bruce Conner, Jay DeFeo, Manuel Neri and so many others connected to Bay Area art institutions as well as more informal cultural gathering hangouts.

One such place was the legendary Old Spaghetti Factory restaurant in San Francisco's North Beach where proprietor Freddie Kuh hired artists to work and also show their art on the walls of the iconic Victoriana restaurant. Kuh described himself as a "bohemian businessman" and Herb Caen once titled him the "the father of funk." The artist **Bernice Bing** found work at the restaurant and soon found a studio nearby. Rezendes and Bing began a lifelong friendship around this time, and Kuh commissioned another popular artist **Joseph St. Amand** to paint the Rezendes portrait from 1970 that is included in this exhibition. Another friend, the artist **Ira Yeager** was also a lively participant in the scene and showed at the 6 Gallery before decamping to Europe for many years. Yeager and Rezendes also remained life-long friends as well.

Joyce Rezendes was born in Arlington, Massachusetts, raised in Santa Barbara, California, and has lived in Manhattan since 1978. Rezendes studied with Richard Diebenkorn, Nathan Oliveira and Saburo Hasegawa at California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland where she received her BFA. She was on the new student Welcome Committee when Bing, Neri and Yeager entered the school. She later received an MFA and MA from Mills College. Travelling widely, Rezendes exhibited in Florence, Italy at the Casa Di Dante, in Seville, Spain through an Ingram Merrill Foundation grant, and Westminster Abbey in London, England. Returning to the United States, she had a solo exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art.

Rezendes has also been a dedicated instructor of art. This includes teaching courses in art history and aesthetics with the University of Maryland Overseas program where she founded the Art History Department. From 1974 to 1978 she taught at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and later at Cuesta College. She has also lectured at Brunel College, London and the Winchester School of Art, England, the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and at

NYU in New York City. Her work can be found in numerous public and private collections including the Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Modern Art at Cornell University, New York, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, IBM, and AT&T.