

## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art***

February 8 – May 10, 2015



Mella Jaarsma, *I Eat You Eat Me*, 2002. Photo documenting performance. Courtesy of the artist.

MINNEAPOLIS – The Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota presents *Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* (February 8, 2015 - May 10, 2015). The exhibition surveys the artist-orchestrated meal and explores the varied meanings that can be sparked by the everyday action of sharing of food and drink with others. By taking a simple act of hospitality, such as offering a sweet bite to visitors in one's home and presenting that act in a museum, the experience is heightened or intensified. Forcing visitors to rethink their actions and engage with each other and the art in different ways, allows them to change the very content of the art. They become active creators instead of simply viewers.

The exhibition examines this practice for the first time with the work of more than thirty artists who have turned the shared meal into a workspace for artistic ideas. It showcases their shared meals and ideas and the social, economic, and political values that surround the act of eating together. These artist-orchestrated meals can offer a radical form of hospitality that punctures everyday experience, using the meal as a means to shift perceptions and trigger encounters that aren't always possible in a fast-moving and segmented society.

From the birth of this tradition in the 1930s, *Feast* examines the history of the artist-orchestrated meal, assessing its roots in early-twentieth century European avant-garde art, its development over the past decades within Western art, and its current global ubiquity. The exhibition will introduce new artists and contextualize their work in relation to other influential artists, from the Italian Futurists and Gordon Matta-Clark to Marina Abramović and Rirkrit Tiravanija. *Feast* addresses the radical hospitality embodied by these artists and the social, commercial, and political structures that surround the experience of eating together.

Join the feast and discover first hand the ways in which artists are using shared experiences with food and drink to exchange ideas and encourage conversation. As part of the exhibition, WAM presents participatory projects, meals, and salons. Highlights include *The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art*, by Tom Marioni, and a series of one-on-one meals with artist Lee Mingwei, held after hours within his sculptural installation at the museum.

*Feast: Radical Hospitality in Contemporary Art* is organized by the Smart Museum of Art, The University of Chicago. The exhibition is curated by Stephanie Smith, formerly Deputy Director and Chief Curator at the Smart Museum of Art, now Chief Curator at the Art Gallery of Ontario. *Feast* is made possible by an Emily Hall Tremaine Exhibition Award. Generous major support has also been provided by the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Chicago Community Trust, Helen Zell, the Chauncey and Marion Deering McCormick Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Additional support is provided by the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation, the Richard and Mary L. Gray Foundation, the University of Chicago's Arts Council, and Janis Kanter and Tom McCormick.



### **Related Programming**

#### **February 7 – Exhibition Preview Party – The Big WAM Bash**

8:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

The Big WAM Bash will celebrate the opening of *Feast* with participatory artists projects including: *The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art* by Bay Area-based artist Tom Marioni, *Additions/Occupy Your Home* by Sam Gould of the Collective Red76, and Ana Prvacki's work *Greeting Committee* will be performed by the museum's student group WAM Collective. Party details and tickets at [z.umn.edu/wambash15](http://z.umn.edu/wambash15)

### **March 11 – WAM Chatter**

**6:30 p.m.**

This special edition of WAM Chatter will focus on artists and ideas from the exhibition. Presenters will use the 20 slides x 20 seconds format to describe how they incorporate radical hospitality into their own practice.

### **April 20 – May 10 – Pop-up Park on the Plaza**

During the last weeks of the spring semester, the museum's student group, WAM Collective, will turn the front plaza into a temporary park with the aid of WAM artist in residence Sam Gould, the student and faculty from the UMN College of Design, and City of Minneapolis urban designers.

### **May 3 – Weekend with the Weisguides**

**11 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

As Feast draws to a close, explore design, wellbeing, and social practices that inspired many of the artists in the exhibition. Participate in Ana Prvacki's *The Greeting Committee*, a social performance where visitors to a museum are offered a taste of *slatko*, a traditional Serbian gesture of welcome; David Robbins *Ice Cream Social*, featuring special cakes that update and celebrate the American tradition of the ice cream social; Mella Jaarsma, *I Eat You Eat Me*, a participatory artwork that invites participants to wear a table and feed each other.

### **ABOUT WAM**

Since its origin in 1934, the Weisman Art Museum has been a teaching museum for the University of Minnesota. Today, education remains central to the museum's mission to create art experiences that spark discovery, critical thinking, and transformation, linking the University and the community. The Weisman Art Museum is located at 333 East River Road, Minneapolis, on the University of Minnesota campus. Admission to exhibition galleries is always free.

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