



COLORADO SPRINGS

Fine Arts Center

at COLORADO COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned artist Tom Marioni's famous beer salon comes to Colorado Springs in special exhibition at the Fine Arts Center

Colorado Springs (June 14, 2018) – The Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) is excited to present the special exhibition *Tom Marioni: The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art*, on view July 14-Sept. 9, 2018.

In 1970, California-based conceptual artist Tom Marioni invited 16 friends to have a drink with him at the Oakland Museum of California, the museum's curator provided the beer, and a tradition was born. By 1973, the artist was hosting weekly salons in his studio and staging the still-ongoing participatory and social piece at designated times, presented in various contexts and by museums across the globe. Though superficially lighthearted, this installation suggests that communion with others, conversation and open dialogue, the exchange of ideas, knowledge, information and philosophies, and shared experiences are the greatest possible outcomes of engagement with visual art. This installation will include a performance and new works from the artist, highlighting the importance of his drawing practice, as well as weekly FREE BEER events.

Tom Marioni received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1981 and three grants from the National Endowment for the Arts during the 1970s. His work is in the collections of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Stadtische Kunsthalle in Mannheim, Germany, the Pompidou Center in Paris, and other museums. He is represented by Gallery Paule Anglim in San Francisco, the Margarete Roeder Gallery in New York, and the Carl Solway Gallery in Cincinnati.

The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art is a collaboration between the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College and the Downtown Partnership's *Art on the Streets* public art program.

The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends Events

Every Wednesday from 5-6:30 p.m. through the run of the show, the exhibition will come alive when a special guest bartender serves patrons FREE BEER in the bar-like setting of the exhibition space, giving opportunity for social engagement and dialogue to anyone who would like to attend. The museum will offer free admission on Wednesday evenings starting at 5 p.m. throughout the show. One featured beer will be served each week and available on a first-come, first-served basis until quantities run out. (Wednesday evening FREE BEER events are 21+)

Tom Marioni: The Act of Drinking Beer with Friends is the Highest Form of Art

When: July 14-Sept. 9, 2018

Where: Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College, 30 W. Dale St.

Admission: \$10 (\$5 military and seniors 55+); FREE for members, kids 12 and under, students, and teachers (with ID)

Something else: Free beer events July 18, 25, Aug. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and Sept. 5 from 5-6:30 p.m. in the gallery space. The July 18 event will include a performance by the artist.

Even more: Join exhibiting artist Tom Marioni Tuesday, July 17 at 5:30 p.m. as he shares his artistic philosophies and the history of his practice. RSVP required.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College

The story of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College (FAC) begins with the founding of the Broadmoor Art Academy by Julie and Spencer Penrose in 1919. During the Great Depression, three dedicated philanthropists – Julie Penrose, Alice Bemis Taylor, and Elizabeth Sage Hare – envisioned expanding the Broadmoor Art Academy into an entire arts district under one roof. The FAC changed its name, built a grand building, and opened as the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center in 1936. In August 2016, the FAC announced an historic alliance with Colorado College and on July 1, 2017, became the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College. The FAC is deeply rooted in the legacy of its founders, who possessed bold visions, a deep passion for the arts, and dedication to the Colorado Springs community. The FAC honors this legacy and spirit today by providing innovative, educational, and multidisciplinary arts experiences designed to elevate the individual spirit and inspire community vitality, building on its history as a unique cultural pillar of the Pikes Peak region. For more information, visit coloradocollege.edu/fac

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