

**For Immediate Release**

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## **RESTORED DAVID IRELAND HOUSE AT 500 CAPP STREET OPENS WEEKEND OF JANUARY 15, 2016**

**Citywide Festivities Celebrate Grand Opening of San Francisco's  
First Historic Artist Home**

**Inaugural Exhibition, *David Ireland's House*, Showcases Home's Iconic Artworks  
and Architectural Features**



San Francisco, CA — Located in San Francisco's culturally vibrant Mission District, David Ireland's former home at 500 Capp Street—at once a residence and artwork in its own right—will open its doors to the public on Friday, January 15, 2016 for a weekend celebrating the city's first historic artist's home.

David Ireland (1930-2009) is best-known for his home at 500 Capp Street, which he embedded with art and slowly transformed into a site-specific installation now regarded as the inspiration, source of materials, and repository for some of his most important work. Following a meticulous two-year restoration effort, visitors to the David Ireland House will be able to experience the late artist's enigmatic home as he intended, immersing themselves in a 360-degree portrait of this important West Coast conceptual artist.

The opening weekend will feature live accordion music at the house, food trucks, and a chance to relax in the home's newly added outdoor terrace. On Friday evening at 5:30 p.m., Bay Area artist Mark Thompson will perform a live-art intervention on the home's front steps. On Saturday at 1 p.m., Southern Exposure will present

three live durational performances by Kari Marboe, Minji Sohn, and Haegen Crosby that respond to Ireland's work. Also on Saturday, from noon to 3 p.m., The Thing Quarterly will distribute limited-edition posters created for the occasion and artist Bob Linder will give away commemorative buttons. A full calendar of related programs is available at [500cappstreet.org](http://500cappstreet.org). General admission to the David Ireland House is \$20 ([advance booking required](#)).

500 Capp Street's inaugural exhibition, *David Ireland's House*, introduces visitors to Ireland's art-as-life practice and highlights the newly restored house itself as his greatest artwork. The presentation features a focused selection of the artist's most iconic sculptures, drawings, and hand-made furniture, along with ephemera, photographs, and other objects from the home's 3,000-piece collection.

*David Ireland's House* will be on view January 15 through March 19, 2016, and occupy all the exhibition spaces in the home, including the main two floors of Ireland's living quarters, as well as two new multi-use spaces: the structure's converted "Accordion Shop" (a room used by the home's previous owner for his accordion-making business) and the "Garage" (a new exhibition space created in the home's former car port).

500 Capp Street Foundation Executive Director Carlie Wilmans notes: "While Ireland typically lived surrounded by a substantial, ever-changing number of artworks, the opening installation brings forward his most important pieces, evoking a feeling of lightness and minimalism that not only encourages visitors to explore and look closely, but also highlights the fascinating interior surfaces of the home itself, which reveal traces of the artist's hand."

Some examples of Ireland's artist interventions featured in the main spaces of the house include installations that are part of the interior architecture; sculptures that give new life to objects left behind by the previous owner; explorations of light reflection in the home; sculptures made from remnants of Ireland's own renovation activity; artist-made furniture; and an array of eclectic found objects.

In the new **Accordion Shop** gallery, three short films by Tony Labat—a close friend of Ireland and frequent collaborator—will screen continuously throughout the run of the exhibition. Made in 1977, the black-and-white films show Ireland in action at 500 Capp Street, performing his original maintenance actions within the house. Several were presented as a part of Ireland's first public exhibition of the house in 1978.

In the **Garage** gallery, a selection of 20 works on paper by Ireland—many of which have never been shown before—demonstrate the artist's in-depth consideration of the house as an architectural form. Using media ranging from ballpoint pen to shoe polish, Ireland created freehand floor plans of 500 Capp Street with the same raw character reflected in the house itself.

### **Loaned Sculpture from SFMOMA Collection Honors Artist's Legacy**

A highlight of the opening exhibition will be Ireland's *Broom Collection with Boom* (1978/1988), a large, freestanding sculpture made from eighteen worn-out brooms that Ireland found in the house and wired together in a circle based on extent of wear. Now part of SFMOMA's permanent collection, *Brooms with Boom* will return to the David Ireland House in a limited engagement for the home's inaugural exhibition, offering a rare chance to experience this signature element of 500 Capp Street *in situ* before it returns to SFMOMA to join the museum's opening installation in new galleries devoted to the art of California.

### **General Tour Information and Artist-Guide Program**

After opening weekend, the David Ireland House will enter normal hours of operation, offering two 90-minute tours daily on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday (2pm and 4pm); three on Saturday (11am, 2pm, and 4pm); and an additional evening tour on the last Thursday of every month (at 7pm). Tours accommodate a maximum of 8 people and are led by trained guides from the Bay Area's thriving community of art students.

### **About David Ireland**

Ireland is internationally admired for a diverse and prolific body of work concerned with the beauty inherent in everyday things and the making of art as a part of daily life. His idiosyncratic, hybrid practice blends sculpture, architecture, painting, and performance, and often draws on ordinary materials such as dirt, concrete, wood, or wire he collected over time. His work is featured in collections of prominent institutions, including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Smithsonian; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art. Ireland's work is influenced heavily by his travels in Africa and his studies in printmaking and industrial arts at Oakland's California College of Arts and Crafts (now California College of the Arts). In 2004, the Oakland Museum of California organized the first full-scale traveling retrospective of Ireland's work, which included objects and ephemera related to 500 Capp Street.

### **About the 500 Capp Street Foundation**

The 500 Capp Street Foundation carries on the legacy of late conceptual artist David Ireland by affording a broad audience the opportunity to experience his home and masterpiece as well as his extant body of work. In the spirit of Ireland, the Foundation conducts public tours and events, maintains a permanent archive of personal papers, photographs, and publications, and will host a residency program in 2017.



The renovation of 500 Capp Street is supported by a generous grant from San Francisco Heritage's Alice Ross Carey Preservation Fund.

**Photography Credits:** [R-L] David Ireland House interior, photo by Henrik Kam; exterior view of façade, photo by Henrik Kam

### **Media Contacts:**

Wendy Norris, Norris Communications, 415.307.3853, [wendy@norriscommunications.biz](mailto:wendy@norriscommunications.biz)

Robyn Wise, Streetwise Studio, 415.269.7043, [wiserobyn@gmail.com](mailto:wiserobyn@gmail.com)

Jessica Roux, Capp Street Foundation, 415.986.1571, [jessica@500cappstreet.org](mailto:jessica@500cappstreet.org)