

[Art: Party](#)

Allen Ruppertsberg, Nicole Cherubini, and Kim Schoenstadt/Rita McBride



Allen Ruppertsberg, *You and Me or The Art of Give and Take*, 2009, Installation View, Courtesy the artist, Photograph: Bruce Morr

““You have to read!” implores Conceptual Art progenitor Allen Ruppertsberg, and this includes his exhibition's text, context, subtext, humor, titles, instructions, intent, and in the end, yourself. *You and Me or The Art of Give and Take* features older wall-bound works and new interactive installations that set the stage for Ruppertsberg's discourse. Equally driven by text and images, the artist spins a contemporary story that looks at by-gone eras, artist-inferred pinnacles of 20th century America, and the rise and fall of iconic moments, movements, and ideals. The images and text are reproduced and repurposed from the artist's extensive collection of ephemera: 1920s sheet music, punk concert posters, 1930s circus banners, esoteric recipes, photos, and vintage bucolic, gosh-golly-precious, cheesecake calendars that serve as his fodder for compositions. The show offers a meaty dialogue about the randomness and significance of language, cleverly peppered with a Dada-esque observation of the absurd. Sound and the fluidity of text and time are also prevalent themes.

In deft curatorial confluence, SMMoA's two project rooms feature exhibitions that compliment the themes of past-and-present and give-and-take. Nicole Cherubini's delicate and complex ceramics reconsider the history, use, import, and current relationship with the medium of clay. Based on the 1969 exhibition *Art by Telephone*, in which prominent artists phoned-in instructions for pieces that were then realized by secondary parties, artists Kim Schoenstadt and Rita McBride execute an exhibition comprised of the results of directives left on each other's answering machines.”

- Ashley Emenegger

