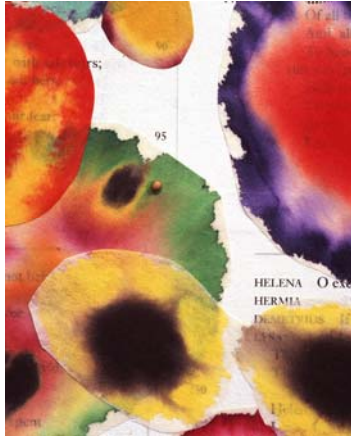




INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART  
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Top: Tim Rollins and K.O.S.,  
*A Midsummer Night's Dream VI (after Shakespeare)* (detail), 2000, watercolor, aqua paper, fruit juices, and mustard seed on book pages, mounted on canvas, 42 1/4 x 47 3/4 inches. The Hyde Collection, Glens Falls, New York. Purchased with funds donated by Jim Taylor and Nan Guslander, and Feibes & Schmitt Architects, Schenectady, New York

## TIM ROLLINS AND K.O.S.: A HISTORY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2009–MARCH 21, 2010

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 6-8PM

EXHIBITION WALKTHROUGH WITH ARTIST TIM ROLLINS AND MEMBERS OF K.O.S., AND EXHIBITION CURATOR IAN BERRY: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 5PM, *ICA MEMBERS ONLY*

### PHILADELPHIA, PA

ICA is pleased to present *Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: A History* the first major museum retrospective of work by artist, activist, and teacher Tim Rollins and K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), a group of artists originally made up of Rollins's students from Intermediate School 52 in the South Bronx. Rollins and his students are known for their large, minimalist works of art created on the pages of books cut out and laid in a grid on canvas. Together, they've developed a collaborative strategy that combines lessons in reading and writing with the production of works of art.

Rollins and K.O.S. have produced paintings, prints, photographs, and sculpture based on literary texts such as Franz Kafka's *Amerika*, Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and musical scores, including *Winterreise* by Franz Schubert. On view in ICA's second floor gallery September 11-December 13, 2009, the exhibition will include over 20 works created between 1984 and 2000. The Emmy-award-winning documentary film on Tim Rollins and K.O.S. will screen continuously in the mezzanine.

In August 1981, Tim Rollins, then twenty-six years old, was recruited by George Gallego, principal of Intermediate School 52 in the South Bronx, to develop a curriculum that incorporated art-making with reading and writing lessons for students who had been classified as academically or emotionally "at risk." Rollins told his students on that first day, "Today we are going to make art, but we are also going to make history." The collaboration between Rollins and his students soon outgrew the classroom. Frustrated with the strictures of the public school system, Rollins opened the Art and Knowledge Workshop, an after-school program in an abandoned school building five blocks from IS52. After teaching all day at IS52, Rollins would meet K.O.S. members at the workshop; homework would be done and art would be made. In 1987, Rollins and K.O.S. began using a traveling workshop format to spread the ideas and inspiration behind their project beyond the South Bronx. In 1994, Rollins and K.O.S. moved their operation to a studio in Chelsea.

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\*checklist and images available upon request.

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

ICA is located at:  
118 South 36th Street at the  
University of Pennsylvania

ICA is open to the public from 12pm to 8pm on Wednesday through Friday and from 11am to 5pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Admission is FREE everyday.  
*Free admission to the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania for the public is sponsored by Glenn R. Fuhrman (W87/WG88) Fund.*

For more information,  
call 215-898-7108/5911, or visit  
[www.icaphila.org](http://www.icaphila.org).

#### INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART

Founded in 1963, the Institute of Contemporary Art at the University of Pennsylvania is a leader in the presentation and documentation of contemporary art. Through exhibitions, commissions, educational programs, and publications, ICA invites the public to share in the experience, interpretation and understanding of the work of established and emerging artists.

There Rollins and some long-term K.O.S. members rebuilt and expanded the project nationally and internationally, significantly increasing the number of workshops conducted with other schools and arts institutions. Today there are active K.O.S. members in Philadelphia, Memphis, San Francisco, Seattle, and New York.

Rollins and K.O.S.'s decision to exhibit the art that they had created in their classroom in professional galleries marked an important turning point in their history; it signaled the moment they began to distinguish themselves from other teacher-student collaborations and demanded that their work be engaged first as fine art. Between the mid-1980s and early-1990s, Rollins and K.O.S. participated in two Whitney Biennials (1985, 1991) Documenta (1987), the Venice Biennale (1988), the Carnegie International (1988) and had solo shows at institutions such as the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (1988); Museum für Gegenwartskunst Basel, Switzerland (1990); Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (1990); and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC (1992).

*Tim Rollins and K.O.S.: A History* is curated by Ian Berry, Malloy Curator of the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery at Skidmore College in collaboration with the artists, and is coordinated at the ICA by Kate Kraczon, Assistant Curator. This exhibition is accompanied by a catalogue.

#### RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

LECTURE: ICA ASSISTANT CURATOR KATE KRACZON ON *TIM ROLLINS AND K.O.S.: A HISTORY*

WHENEVER WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 6:30PM

CONVERSATION: TIM ROLLINS AND MEMBERS OF K.O.S.

WHENEVER WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 6:30PM

*ICA acknowledges generous funding support from the Leadership Circle: Robert Kirkpatrick & John Wind; Jill & Sheldon Bonovitz; Ellen & Stephen Burbank; Tom Callan & Martin McNamara; Anthony B. Creamer III; Cecile & Christopher D'Amelio; Jennifer Rice & Michael Forman; Fury Design, Inc.; Karen Kruza & Richard Quinn; Gabriele W. Lee; The Marketing Audit, Inc.; John & Ann Ollman; Stephanie Roach; and Dina & Jerry Wind. Additional funding has been provided by The Horace W. Goldsmith Foundation; the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts; The Dietrich Foundation, Inc.; the Overseers Board for the Institute of Contemporary Art; friends and members of ICA; and the University of Pennsylvania. (as of 7/15/09)*

ALL PROGRAMS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE VISIT THE ICA WEBSITE, [WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG](http://WWW.ICAPHILA.ORG), FOR MORE INFORMATION ON PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH *TIM ROLLINS AND K.O.S.*