



PRESS RELEASE

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**Racine Art Museum Releases the Beasts of Contemporary Craft**

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Open February 18 – June 10, 2018 at the Racine Art Museum (RAM), ***Beasts: Wild Animals in RAM's Collection*** takes a look at creatures that are wild, dangerous, large, or somehow less familiar.

The lives of animals and humans are interwoven in many ways. The natural world, in all its variety, has long been a favorite topic for artists who marvel at its complexity, diversity, and beauty. They may also use it as a way to explore larger issues about the environment, humanity, society, or culture. The artists whose works are featured in this exhibition are drawn to depicting animals that are, perhaps, a little more removed from the daily lives of most—those that might be considered “beasts.”

While it can be used to describe certain types of people or brutish activity, the word beast is generally associated with four-footed animals that are wild, dangerous, or large. Those animals could be familiar, such as horses and cows; known, but not domesticated, such as elephants, rhinos, and bears; or unfamiliar and fantastical, such as dragons and imaginary creatures. Artists render them realistically, sweetly, abstractly, or symbolically, depending on the focus of their interests.

The ceramic sculptures, fiber works, paintings, photographs, and prints that are included in *Beasts* are all drawn from RAM's collection. Whether beasts are the primary focus of the work or characters involved in a broader story, their presence reflects the consistent human desire to make sense of the larger world.

*Beasts: Wild Animals in RAM's Collection* is made possible by: Platinum Sponsor - Windgate Charitable Foundation; Diamond Sponsor - Osborne and Scekic Family Foundation; Gold

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Together, the two campuses of the Racine Art Museum, RAM in downtown Racine at 441 Main Street and the Charles A. Wustum Museum of Fine Arts at 2519 Northwestern Avenue, seek to elevate the stature of contemporary crafts to that of fine art by exhibiting significant works in craft media with painting, sculpture and photography, while providing outstanding educational art programming.

Docent led contemporary craft and architectural tours of the museums are available. Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum, are open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm, and are closed Mondays, Federal holidays and Easter. RAM is open Sunday Noon – 5:00 pm, while Wustum is closed Sundays. An admission fee of \$7 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. Admission to Wustum is free. Members are always admitted without charge to either campus.