

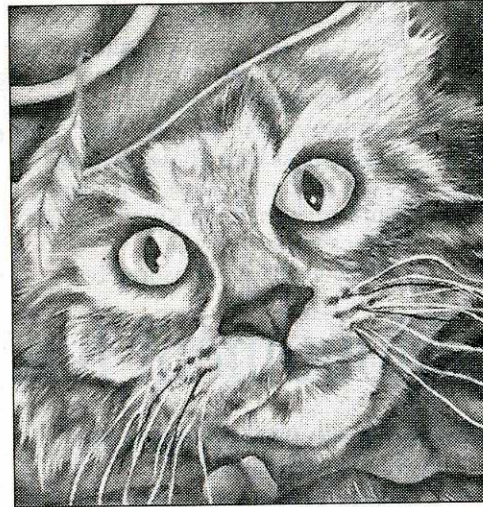
ART

Animals are highlight of RAM, Wustum exhibits

RACINE — This summer, the Racine Art Museum features an array of exhibitions and programming that highlight animals and their relationship with humans.

“Museum Menagerie” at RAM’s Wustum Museum, 2519 Northwestern Ave., highlights a collection of animals by community artists safely held captive for all to view. And for the fifth year, Wustum Museum showcases innovative artwork all about animals by RAM’s students, teachers and staff in “Creature Comforts” through Aug. 25. “Creature Comforts” features works created by area families and art students on view side-by-side with well-known regional artists who teach or work at the museums. The exhibition includes a wide range of media that reflects the variety of different workshops and classes taught at Wustum.

Three artworks will be chosen by Lena Vigna, RAM curator of exhibitions, to receive the Curator’s Choice Awards. The winners will be announced from 6 to 8 p.m. tonight during the artist reception and awards ceremony. Visitors



“Skippy McFluffy,” a colored pencil drawing by Kelly Witte of Racine.

are encouraged to vote for their favorite artwork. The audience award will be announced after the close of the show.

Also at Wustum Museum, “Animal

Magnetism: Works on Paper in RAM’s Collection,” features primarily two-dimensional works that reference or incorporate animals. It is open through Aug. 25. A companion exhibition at the Racine Art Museum June 24-Oct. 21 includes mainly three-dimensional works that use animals as subject matter. Both exhibitions, drawn from RAM’s collection, highlight a diversity of materials and a variety of approaches to one topic.

The Racine Art Museum, 441 Main St., hosts “Beth Van Hoesen: The Observant Eye” through Sept. 9. Van Hoesen is known for her realistic images of animals, floral studies, figure drawings and portraits.

Open June 10-Oct. 7 at RAM, “Animal Nature” features contemporary artists working in a variety of media that address the complex relationship between humans and animals with work that is witty, insightful and poignant. Whether using jewelry, cut paper, blown glass or other materials, these artists create engaging works that reflect on both animal and

human nature.

“Animal Magnetism: Sculpture from RAM’s Collection” presents works from RAM’s significant permanent holdings that feature animals as subject matter.

“Handle with Care: Recent Acquisitions in Glass” in RAM’s smaller Ruffo and Schumann galleries highlights works made of glass that were recently gifted to the museum. This exhibition not only celebrates the arrival of significant glass works to RAM’s collection, it is also linked to a nationwide anniversary of studio glass in America.

For information on other animal-related and family-friendly events scheduled throughout the summer at RAM and Wustum Museum, go to www.ramart.org.

Both campuses of the Racine Art Museum are open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. RAM is open from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. An admission fee of \$5 for adults, with reduced fees for students and seniors, applies at RAM. There is no admission fee at Wustum.