



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

Animal Attraction: An Exploration of the Animal as Image at Florida CraftArt

Florida Craft Art is thrilled to announce its upcoming exhibition, ***Animal Attraction***, showcasing the brilliant and thought-provoking work of contemporary artists who use animal themes to delve into complex ideas. The exhibition, curated by nationally recognized ceramic artists Taylor Robenalt and Tiffany Leach, promises to be a captivating exploration of the animal form as a vehicle for contemplating various concepts, including society, gender and sexuality, current events, memory, and the human condition. The exhibition will be on view from **March 22—May 12, 2024**.

Animals have long been used in art as symbols and archetypes, providing a rich source of inspiration to explore our relationship with nature and the world around us. *Animal Attraction* will feature the finest contemporary works in ceramics, fiber, metal, mixed media, wood, glass, and jewelry, showcasing the diversity of artistic expression within this theme.

Curators Taylor Robenalt and Tiffany Leach: A Dynamic Duo with a Decade-Long Friendship

Taylor Robenalt and Tiffany Leach, both graduates of the University of Georgia, forged a strong bond during their time at graduate school, sharing not only their passion for ceramics but also late nights in the studio accompanied by their canine companions. With a decade of friendship and ceramic collaboration under their belts, Robenalt and Leach are excited to curate *Animal Attraction*, bringing their unique perspectives as practicing artists, professors, and mothers to the development of this fantastic show.

About Taylor Robenalt: A Renowned Ceramic Artist and Educator

Taylor Robenalt, a full-time professor at Ringling College of Art and Design, has established herself as a prominent figure in the world of ceramics. With an impressive academic background, including a BFA in bronze casting and stone carving from Southern Methodist University and an MFA in ceramics from the University of Georgia, Robenalt has participated in

numerous national and international ceramic shows. Her accolades include the NCECA International Residency Award, the Halo Fellowship Award, and solo exhibitions at prestigious venues such as the Canton Museum of Art.

About Tiffany Leach: Studio Ceramic Artist and Educator Examining Social Norms

Tiffany Leach, a studio ceramic artist and Professor of Art at Jacksonville University, uses her sculptures to address contemporary social norms for women. Her work, exhibited nationally and internationally, explores the human experience through figurative elements and metaphorical references. Leach's dedication to engaged learning and study abroad is evident in her role as the Department Chair and Director of the MFA in Visual Arts at Jacksonville University. Her impressive resume includes exhibitions in Rome, Italy, and Lille, France, as well as selections for international artist residencies in Rome and Skopelos, Greece.

About Florida CraftArt

Florida CraftArt is located at 501 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.FloridaCraftArt.org or call **(727) 821-7391**. Florida CraftArt is a nonprofit organization founded in 1951 and headquartered in St. Petersburg. Its mission is to grow the statewide creative economy by engaging the community and advancing Florida's fine craft artists and their work. Fine craft art is presented in its 2,500-square-foot Florida Artists' Gallery, and curated exhibitions are featured in its adjacent Exhibition Gallery. Florida CraftArt is the *only* statewide organization offering artists a platform to show and sell their work.

CUTLINES

1. **Shed Some Light _16.jpg, Photo by Stacey Holloway**
Animal Attraction artist Stacey Holloway's *Shed Some Light*, conveys a dual message to the observer: either exercise caution in the presence of the formidable wolf or feel drawn towards the security offered by the light. Or should we ask if it is natural to be attracted to danger?
2. **Complicated with Woman facing out.tif, Photo by Taylor Robenalt**
Taylor Robenalt's *Complicated* stands tall, comprised of various symbols that delve into the complexities of relationships. A man and a woman face outward, accompanied by a cat, a dog, and a bird family, all seemingly overshadowed by the profound connection of a black and a white swan, known for their lifelong mating bond.