

Creature Comforts

December 11 - February 20

Reception & Performances

Thursday, December 10 | 4:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Multiple venues in Sharp, Michigan, and Lakeview

Join us in the opening of Creature Comforts, an evening of visual arts, readings, performances, and comforting food

Creature Comforts celebrates the kaleidoscopic relationship we have with others by exploring the idiosyncratic connections that speak to our identities as caregivers of our own creaturely needs and the special critters in our lives. The artists in this exhibition shed light on an affective support system, uncovering moments of interspecies dependence, and how we build mental, emotional resilience to foster a passion for life.

Besides celebrating our daily care efforts, this exhibition serves to promote awareness and conversation around wellness, and to cultivate community engagement via creative practices.

Creature Comforts is part of a series of Wellness Center Student Support Network* student-initiated events. This exhibition is juried and curated by a panel of SAIC faculty, staff, and WCSSN student representatives, and organized by Ryan Goh (BFA 2018) and Jacelyn Kee (MA 2016).

Visit www.tinyurl.com/creaturecomfortsINFO for details.

* WCSSN is a group of student leaders, who have completed the Mental Health First Aid training and are acting as natural peer supports and mental health advocates within the SAIC community.

LAKEVIEW

Wellness Center
13th Floor

Chloé Beltran
Jacqueline Carmody
NeCa
Katie Halton
Rafael Huerta
Lina Kim
Julie Ludwick
Mikaela Nichols-Lionetti
Destiny Ryan



SHARP

2nd Floor

Mary Do
Sam Charlino
HaiLey Madysan
Katie Halton
Holly Henry
Rafael Huerta
Jabari Jefferson
Sen Lee
Siyang Li
Seonghui Park
Addie Parsons
Kirsten Southwell
Arvind Sundar
Suzanna Watkins
Valerie Wong

MACLEAN

12th - 14th Floors

Jenna Boyles
Jacqueline Carmody
Khiem Chau
Ariel Chen
Rebecca DeGraw
Cole Durkee
Michal Hall
Yifan Huang
Sarah Landström
Rim Lee
Jae Hwan Lim
Xiaoxuan Liu
Tatjana Paunesku
Michael Robert Pollard
Hannah Spazzground Schiff
Hope Wang





VIDEO SHOWREEL | SHARP, 1st Floor | 4:45 - 6:30

Gwyneth Anderson | *animossion*

Stop-motion animation of various nature-derived and non-nature derived objects interacting in the woods of Ox-Bow.

Juan Bahamon | *Dynamism Of Dog At the One Way Colour Tunnel*

3d animation with bright colors & 8-bit music of a dog running down a colorful tunnel.

Karina Fisher | *Memory II*

A video about the artist's personal nostalgia represented in the style of a moving Hockney painting.

Rebecca Frass | *Ode to Acid Kitty*

Ode to my cat Cowboy Dan, the kitty of all kitties.

Molly Hewitt | *Mermaid*

A mermaid's desperate attempt to return a taxidermied fish to the lake.

Cathy Hsiao | *Mating Ritual*

An absurd educational video wherein I woo the Asian Hill Mynah bird in musical courtship and explore the science behind the study of human language and birdsong. Screened as a single monitor video, I sing Chinese on one half of the screen. On the other half is a compilation of public domain footage of Asian Hill Mynah bird mating calls. I wrote my own highly artificial mating call to be music for the video. The video is one in a three part series that focuses on mating rituals and explores the relationship between culture, nature, the building blocks of language, and human communication.

Eve Kalugin | *Daily Rituals*

Sze-Chin Lee | *Zico*

As a foreign national, I empathized with the experiences of migrant clients at my art therapy internship site. They expressed that "home" is not only a physical place; it is a safe space as well. Through their expressions of homesickness, I learned the importance of developing mental and emotional resilience. This video explores feelings for home through the imagined life and adventures of my cat resident, Zico, while he waited for his mistress to bring him home after her sabbatical in Singapore. I hope the work brings comfort to others who are away from home.

Sara Payne | *Goosed*

Two friends have a brief misadventure with geese in a corn field.

Laurie Robins | *Untitled*

This on-going project interrogates the etymological entanglement of animal and animation through the shared root anima: to have or give breath as life. Working with archival stills and film, this piece works to unravel potential relationships between technologies of animation and our understanding of animate life. It challenges the mobilisation of fundamental questions concerning human/animal relations and scientific methods of knowing. While not relating directly to care, the work attempts to make strange assumptions about epistemological classification of species, displaying how technologies of animation reconfigure the shifting boundary between human and nonhuman, and in turn how these new fields of knowledge animate life as such.

Veronic Rosser | *Woof Man*

In this stop motion puppet animation, a nervous hypochondriac starts to feel not quite like himself. He is convinced he is becoming something not human, something...hairy. His wife, who yearns for a pet, enables and even encourages his delusions.

Hyerin Ryu | *Cook*

Having never been religious, I believed that I could overcome any obstacles by myself. However, after numerous incidents, I realized that life is rather uncontrollable. To escape from feelings of helplessness about an unpredictable future, I created my own control system. I incorporated the numbers 10, 7, 6 into my actions and drew lines and shapes in bilateral symmetry. My obsessive habits became my own protective 'device' to escape from anxiety. In this work where I show something familiar in an unfamiliar way, I try to deal with obsessions that I call trivial, through ritual.

Yuan Zheng | *Natural Artificial*

Observation of a series of artifacts, landscape and artificial nature, where live or dead animals are detached from their original habitats and contexts to reflect on the transformed relationship between animal and us.

READINGS

SHARP, 1st Floor

4:10 - 4:30

Sammi Skolmoski

A Field Guide to the Free Market Fauna of Northwest Chicago

Carolina Faller Moura

Collecting Insects

PERFORMANCES

SHARP, 1st & 2nd Floors

5:00 - 7:00

Falak Vasa | *Divide*

The performance addresses the divide between the worlds of humans and animals through the anthropomorphization of nature. By embodying an animal for a long duration, the performer attempts to seize the 'act' of being an animal and to produce a genuine, instinctive, animalistic human self. Throughout the performance, the piece gradually blurs the boundaries between what is human and animal until the two become one and the same. The smudging of the divide at the end of the performance is a symbolic gesture to invite the audience to see themselves in a new light.

LAKEVIEW, 13th Floor,

Wellness Center, 5:30 - 7:00

Al Conkle | *My Real Life As a Bunny*

Inspired by the complex symbol of the rabbit and the rabbit's warren--with its secret hiding places, chutes, and tunnels--this performance installation was designed from the premise that these qualities resemble the complexities of Complex PTSD. Dressed as a bunny, I invite audience members to stroke me with paint as I sit with a record player that relates my own diagnosis with CPTSD.

REFRESHMENTS

SHARP, 1st & 2nd Floors

Mac & Cheese, Coffee & Tea

MACLEAN, 13th Floor

Vegan Soup & Chips



LAKEVIEW, 13th Floor, Wellness Center

Hot Chocolate, Apple Cider & Cookies

(Reception starts at 5:15 p.m.)

Creature Comforts is made possible by:

Students: Virginia Bahena, Carol Chang, Eseosa Edebiri, Christian Gion, Ryan Goh, Kyong Juhn, Aawalpreet Kaur, Jacelyn Kee, Youree Kim, Alex Kostiw, Renee Kuklenski, Heidi Lee, Sze-Chin Lee, Jeff Levrant, De Moton, Darius Thomas, Alice Yu, Louisa Zheng

Faculty & Staff: Delinda Collier, Mark Jeffrey, Ross Jordan, April Knighton, Laura A. Lamb, Michael Plummer, Michael R. Pollard, Roy Rodriguez, Nora Taylor