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Left: Joan Myers, *Elephant, India*, 2013. Inkjet print. SBMA, Museum purchase with funds provided by Barbara and Owen Patozka.  
Right: Richard Salas, *Four Tenors*, 2012. Inkjet print. SBMA, Museum purchase with funds provided by Tim Walsh and Ken Anderson.

## Art to Zoo: Exploring Animal Natures

### Animals Reign in this Photographic Exhibition

On View:

Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
College of Creative Studies, UC Santa Barbara

September 28, 2014 – January 4, 2015  
September 26 – October 19, 2014

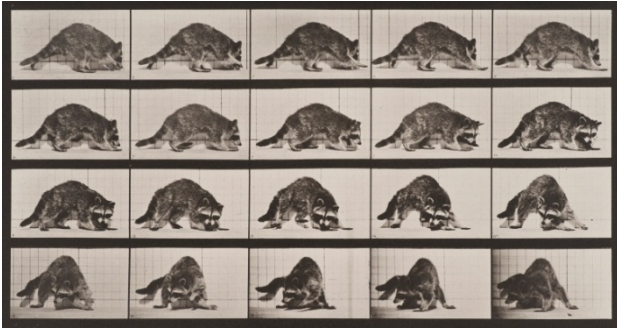
“There is no fundamental difference between man and the higher animals in their mental faculties ... The lower animals, like man, manifestly feel pleasure and pain, happiness, and misery.” —Charles Darwin

August 27, 2014 – The Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) presents a unique perspective of animal life in **Art to Zoo: Exploring Animal Natures**, a photographic exhibition drawn from the Museum’s permanent collection, installed at SBMA through January 4, 2015, and shared with the College of Creative Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara (on view at UCSB September 26 – October 19, 2014). This collection of images, curated by SBMA, can be appreciated not only as artful masterworks but also as unique insights into the animal kingdom.

Photographers in *Art to Zoo* reveal the complex, thoughtful, and often elegant ways in which animals touch, see, and hear the world. Using non-invasive imaging techniques, scientists and animal behaviorists are finding irrefutable evidence that other species know vastly more than heretofore thought. The ancient Greeks had a class of animals that were semi-divine; the Egyptians worshipped animal deities; the pre-Columbians, a feathered serpent. Animals throughout human history have been revered and reviled, treasured and feared, yet little has been established as scientific fact until relatively recently. Throughout this macro to micro look at the animal world, the belief in overall human superiority is proved suspect, if not arrogant.

On View at Santa Barbara Museum of Art

September 28, 2014 – January 4, 2015



Perhaps the most recognizable name on view at SBMA is that of **Eadweard Muybridge**, known for his technical accomplishments that accompanied his studies of animal mechanics. In this exhibition is a selection from his 11-volume *Animal Locomotion* studies, which presents a variety of several African species. The book marked a turning point in photomechanical printing, which up to that point had not allowed for affordable large-scale printing and publication, through the collotype process. Featured in the SBMA installation are his *Raccoon Turning Around* (1887) and *Untitled (Elephant)* (1887).

Above: Eadweard Muybridge, *Raccoon Turning Around*, 1887. Collotype. SBMA, Museum Purchase

**Camille Solyagua's** photographs blend art and science for a closer examination of small wonders. Citing a childhood fascination with the technical process behind image making, Solyagua has spent her career developing visual narratives that reveal the fragility of the natural world. From museum specimens to dancing jellyfish and ant cadavers, her photographs investigate the often overlooked aspects of animal characteristics. Her gelatin silver print *Jellyfish #9* (2000), a quiet and haunting image, invites viewers to appreciate the delicacy and grace of the fragile sea creatures.



Right: Camille Solyagua, *Jellyfish #9*, 2000. Gelatin silver print. SBMA, Gift of Joseph Bellows Gallery



**Henry Dixon**, known for his technical excellence rather than artistry, documented London's Victorian-era buildings for the Society for Photographing Relics of Old London in the late 1800s. Originally trained as a master copper-plate printer, Dixon thrived in the face of technical challenges in the printing industry and mastered the difficult carbon print process that many artists avoided. While best remembered for recording a heritage on the verge of destruction, Dixon's commercial commissions included photographing animals at the London Zoo, as in *Cougar on a Rock in the London Zoo* (1885), and the Arctic Expedition of 1875.

Above: Henry Dixon, *Cougar On A Rock In The London Zoo*, ca. 1885. Carbon print. SBMA, Museum purchase with funds provided by Howard Stein

Japanese photographer **Yuichi Hibi** attempts to unveil the mystery of felines in his photo series *Neco*, or "cat," which captures the essence of feline play and rest. On view in *Art to Zoo* is Hibi's *Me-chan* (1993), a dramatic play with light and animal expression in a gelatin silver print. The artist admitted that although he views dogs as the more likeable species, cats continue to draw his attention. Through this series, Hibi explores the depth of feline personality and mystery.



Right: Yuichi Hibi, *Hibi's Me-chan*, 1993 (printed 2008). Gelatin silver print, ed. 1/15. SBMA, Museum purchase with funds provided by Lorna Hedges

Other artists on view at SBMA include James Balog, Linda L. Broadfoot, Jayne Hinds Biduat, Keith Carter, Imogen Cunningham, Margaret Bourke-White, Arthur Radclyffe Dugmore, Christine Fletcher, Harold Edgerton, Mary Frey, Masahisa Fukase, Lukas Felzmann, Larry Fink, Kevin Horan, Jacque Henri Lartigue, Joan Myers, Gregori Maiofis, Ted Orland, Ines Roberts, A.H. Rogers, Richard Ross, Jack Spencer, Doug and Mike Starn, Richard Salas, Kunie Sugiura, George A. Tice, and Loretta Young-Gautier.

On View at College of Creative Studies, UC Santa Barbara

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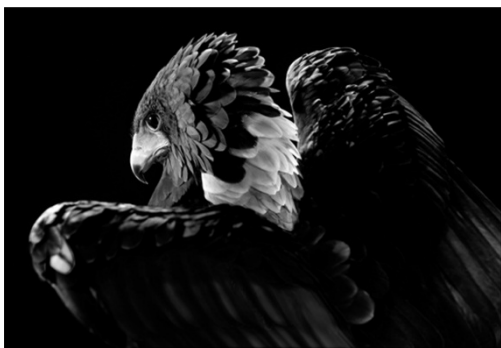


Faces predate human beings and facial expressions have evolved in order to communicate emotional attitudes. The facial contortions of an animal may be all too human. The sentient bearing captured in many animal portraits belies the primal nature of the creatures, and viewers are free to interpret or anthropomorphize the subject according to one's own frame of mind. One has only to look at the haughty expression on **William Heck's** Mrs. Zellerbach's Poodle (1946) to know that animals convey attitude, if not emotion.

Left: William Heck, Mrs. Zellerbach's Poodle, 1946. Gelatin silver print. SBMA, Museum purchase, Photography Acquisition Fund.

Santa Barbara photographer and UC Santa Barbara Distinguished Professor of Art **Richard Ross** is widely known for his artwork surrounding the juvenile justice system. In Art to Zoo, however, his close examination of the preservation of the natural world becomes the focus of Booth's Bird Museum, Brighton, England (1986), from his series *Museology*, and his image Warner Brothers, Spiders (1990).

Right: Richard Ross, Booth's Bird Museum, Brighton, England, 1986. Chromogenic print. SBMA, Gift of Bruce and Nancy Berman.



Inspired by a chance encounter at The World Bird Sanctuary, **Robert Westrich** embarked on a series of photographs highlighting the simple beauty of American hawks. By leveraging strobe and natural light, Westrich reveals the physical detail and strength of the bird of prey in Raptor, Bateleur Eagle I (2011).

Left: Robert Westrich, Raptor, Bateleur Eagle I, 2009 (printed 2011). Inkjet print, ed. 48/50. SBMA, Museum Purchase.

Other artists on view at the College of Creative Studies include Macduff Everton, Lukas Felzmann, Christine Fletcher, Michael Flomen, Yuichi Hibi, Henry Horenstein, Susan Jorgensen, Rolfe Horn, Inge Morath, Gregori Maiofis, Jo-Anne McArthur, Wolf von dem Bussche, Richard Salas, Camille Solyagua, Roman Vishniac, and Shaun Walton.

**Related Programming:**

**Sunday, September 28, 1 – 4 pm**

**Canines on Camera: Pop-Up Portrait Studio**

Dogs and their people are invited to pose for a free portrait in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition. Images available for download on the Museum's Flickr page after the event.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Front Steps

**Free**

**Thursday, November 20, 5:30 pm**

**Lecture and Book Signing: Virginia Morell, *Animal Wise***

In conjunction with the exhibition, noted science writer Virginia Morell explores the frontiers of research on animal cognition and emotion, offering a surprising and moving exploration into the hearts and minds of wild and domestic animals. Morell is also the author of *Ancestral Passions*, a *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year, *Blue Nile*, and co-author, with Richard Leakey, of *Wildlife Wars*. She is a prolific contributor to *National Geographic*, *Science*, and *Smithsonian* magazines and several notable publications. A book signing follows the lecture.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art

Mary Craig Auditorium

**Free for SBMA Members, teachers, and students/\$10 Non-Members/\$6 Senior Non-Members**

**Reserve or purchase tickets at the Museum Visitor Services desks or online at [tickets.sbma.net](http://tickets.sbma.net).**

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA.

Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm, Chase Free Thursday Evening 5 – 8 pm

805.963.4364 [www.sbma.net](http://www.sbma.net)