

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Cynthia Minet, "Predator: Falcon," post-consumer plastic, fasteners, LEDs, 2014. Courtesy of the artist.

**LOS ANGELES** – USC Fisher Museum of Art is pleased to present *Cynthia Minet: Beast of Burden*, a focus exhibition of Los Angeles based artist Cynthia Minet, on view from September 2 through October 10, 2015.

*Cynthia Minet: Beast of Burden* features illuminated, life-size, mixed media sculptures of domesticated animals from the series "Unsustainable Creatures." The installation draws upon the complicated relationships and dependencies humans have with the world we inhabit, in line with Minet's continued interest in scientific and ecological issues. It also emphasizes the artist's investigation of materials, and her aesthetics in successfully transforming found and repurposed plastics into visually compelling artworks. Curated by Ariadni Liokatis, *Cynthia Minet: Beast of Burden* is exhibited in conjunction with *Gyre: The Plastic Ocean*, a traveling exhibition organized by the Anchorage Museum in Alaska.

Works showcased in *Cynthia Minet: Beast of Burden* depict animals rendered in postures conveying toil and struggle. Lit up with colorful LEDs, Minet's sculptures are created by cutting up found plastics and bolting them together, avoiding any substantial modifications. They thereby function as surrogates for human experience and represent our dependency on petrochemicals and electricity. Plastic storage containers, detergent bottles, dustpans and even old baby toys are exposed and identifiable for the viewer to recognize them as what they are while making anatomic references. Minet's singular and visually commanding take on consumerism thus highlights the burden that disposable culture places on the natural world, and the need for sustainable resources.

The installation will also premiere Minet's new series focusing on raptors. These birds of prey, long trained for the more exotic sport of falconry, are currently used in commercial bird eradication programs, and are flown through vineyards several times a day, rendering them almost as domesticated as farm animals. The artist explores this dichotomy and implications such as the predator drone, the role of humans as predators, and the falcon and hawk as symbols of strength and renewal.

Cynthia Minet's artworks have been exhibited both in the USA and internationally. Most recently, her illuminated sculptural installations have been displayed at the Anchorage Museum, Alaska, the CDC Museum in Atlanta, GA, the Muzeo in Anaheim, CA, the Los Angeles International Airport, UC Riverside's Culver Center for the Arts, the Huntington Beach Art Center, the Museum of Natural History, LA, and at GATE Projects, Glendale. International group exhibitions include museum and gallery shows in Venice and Amelia, Italy, Minsk, Belarus, and in several venues in Israel. Her work has been reviewed and featured on the Discovery Channel's *Weird Planet*, *Wired Magazine*, *FORM Magazine*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Anchorage Daily News*, the *OC Register*, and on numerous blogs online.

*“Cynthia Minet: Beast of Burden” is on view from September 2 through October 10 at USC Fisher Museum of Art. Learn more at [http://fisher.usc.edu/exhibitions/beast\\_of\\_burden.html](http://fisher.usc.edu/exhibitions/beast_of_burden.html).*

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## **About the Museum**

The USC Fisher Museum of Art - established in 1939- is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. It functions as a center for intellectual inquiry and aesthetic enjoyment in support of USC’s goals of research, teaching, artistic creation, and service to society. The Fisher Museum bears special responsibility to link the art in its permanent collections and the art it presents in its temporary exhibitions to all of USC’s present and future audiences: to its students, faculty, staff, alumni, and surrounding communities. Fisher Museum offers an array of programming, including lectures, artists’ talks, yoga, film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings to enhance and support its exhibitions. Fisher Museum is also proud to be home and working laboratory for the USC International Museum Institute, a think-tank for museum professionals and a division of the USC College.

Located on the USC campus.  
823 Exposition Blvd Los Angeles, CA 90089

Admission is free.

Museum Hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm  
Saturday 12-4pm

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