

for immediate release | November 14, 2011

Contact

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HOW ARE ANIMALS INFLUENCING US?

Emily Carr co-presents Interactive Futures '11: Animal Influence.

VANCOUVER, BC | New media artists, scientists, activists and philosophers are gathering together at Emily Carr University of Art + Design for a unique look at how animal cognition, animal consciousness and animal agency are changing the way we make art, do science, make ethical choices and make change in the world with *Interactive Futures 2011: Animal Influence*. The conference features a workshop, concurrent exhibitions, performances and screenings that take place at Emily Carr and Gallery Gachet, November 17 - 19, 2011.

Keynote speakers include respected cognitive ethologist Marc Bekoff and international new media artist Lisa Jevbratt. The workshop features prominent international presenters; artists, researchers and experts, including Gay Bradshaw and Emily Carr Associate Professor Dr. Carol Gigliotti. Exhibitions include international and local artists exhibiting interactive and new media art works - Ecoarttech, Bryndis Snæbjörnsdóttir & Mark Wilson, Sam Easterson, France Cadet, Joanne Bristol, Iain Gardner, Merritt Johnson, Lisa Jevbratt and Emily Carr Associate Professor's Julie Andreyev, Chris Jones and Sandra Semchuk.

"*IF'11* brings together artists and researchers who are exploring the perceptual, emotional and imaginative spaces of animals," says Julie Andreyev, Artistic Director. "We're discussing how culture perceives and relates to animals, both negatively and positively, and how crucial it is that we expand our compassionate footprint. The art works, performances and screenings show how animals express and how they are creative agents. *IF'11* will focus on the vital questions and debates that need to happen if we care to respectfully co-exist with other species on this planet."

Opening reception | November 17, 2011, 6pm
Concourse Gallery | Emily Carr University of Art + Design

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About Interactive Futures

Interactive Futures (IF) has been active since 2002 holding a conference alongside exhibitions and performances. From 2002 to 2007, IF was organized by Dr. Steve Gibson, sponsored by the Victoria Film Festival and was held in Victoria, Canada. IF has grown from being a single venue event held at the University of Victoria featuring local researchers and artists, to being a multi-venue event with significant international cultural partners, an active archival website and a publication by an international publisher.

IF'11 is produced by Emily Carr's Dr. Maria Lantin, Director, Intersections Digital Studios, *Executive Director*, Associate Professor Julie Andreyev, *Artistic Director*, and Associate Professor Dr. Carol Gigliotti, *Curator*.

Complete conference details and information on registration are available at <http://interactivefutures.ca>.

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