

**For Immediate Release**

**Contact:** Barbara Briggie-Smith

Tel: 515.271.0343

E-mail: [bbsmith@desmoinesartcenter.org](mailto:bbsmith@desmoinesartcenter.org)

## **Des Moines Art Center exhibition explores human experience through animal forms in *Iowa Artists 2015: Jessica Teckemeyer***

**DES MOINES, IOWA (October 2015)** – On Friday, October 30, the Des Moines Art Center will open *Iowa Artists 2015: Jessica Teckemeyer*, which will be on view through February 21, 2016, in the John and Mary Pappajohn Gallery, Richard Meier building. The artist will preview the exhibition with a Gallery Talk on Thursday, October 29 at 6:30 pm.

Jessica Teckemeyer's multi-media sculpture depicts animals in surreal, often threatening situations, and touches on dualities in human nature. "The human condition is domesticated; we are animals," she states. "As social creatures, we combat reason versus instinct. Through translating a human experience into the form of an animal, we look at ourselves from another viewpoint." Teckemeyer plays on the vulnerability we see in "safe" animals such as deer or dogs, and the danger we associate with predators, emphasizing the theme of duality by presenting both creatures in the same work. Her engaging, unsettling art explores themes from primal emotion and ancient mythology to specific current issues such as gun violence. Teckemeyer is an assistant professor of art at Clarke University in Dubuque, and has exhibited in multiple venues across the United States.

*Iowa Artists 2015: Jessica Teckemeyer* is organized by Laura Burkhalter, associate curator.



Caption:  
Jessica Teckemeyer  
*Chaos II*, 2015  
Mixed media: tree root, polyurethane, paint, foam, glass  
26 x 42 x 26 inches  
Courtesy the artist



entirelyunexpected

## RELATED PROGRAM

Artist Gallery Talk

Thursday, October 29 / 6:30 pm

John and Mary Pappajohn Gallery / Richard Meier Building

Jessica Teckemeyer will lead a discussion of the exhibition.

### Des Moines Art Center

Recognized by international art critics as a world-class museum in the heart of the Midwest, the Des Moines Art Center, an AAM-accredited institution, has amassed an important collection with a major emphasis on contemporary art. The collection's overriding principle is a representation of artists from the 19th century to the present, each through a seminal work. This accounts for an impressive collection that ranges from Edward Hopper's *Automat* to Jasper Johns' *Tennyson*, Henri Matisse's *Woman in White*, Georgia O'Keeffe's *From the Lake No. 1*, Francis Bacon's *Study after Velásquez's Portrait of Pope Innocent X*, Bill Viola's *Ascension*, and Cecily Brown's *Half-Bind*.

The Art Center's physical complex marries with the collection for a totally integrated experience. The collection is housed in three major buildings, each designed by a world-renowned architect—Eliel Saarinen, I. M. Pei, and Richard Meier. With the exception of special events, admission to the museum is free.

In September 2009, the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park opened in Des Moines' Western Gateway Park. Philanthropists John and Mary Pappajohn provided funding for and donated 28 sculptures by internationally acclaimed contemporary artists to the Des Moines Art Center. The collection of sculptures by such artists as Louise Bourgeois, Deborah Butterfield, Willem de Kooning, Olafur Eliasson, Keith Haring, Ellsworth Kelly, Jaume Plensa, Richard Serra, Joel Shapiro, and Mark di Suvero, is the most significant donation of artwork to the Art Center in a single gift in the museum's history. The Pappajohn Sculpture Park is a collaboration of the Pappajohns, the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines Art Center, and numerous corporate and private donors.

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