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**Tacoma Art Museum presents New Exhibition  
*The Naturalist & The Trickster: Audubon/RYAN!***

**IMAGES AVAILABLE**

January 7, 2020 (Tacoma, WA)— On February 1, 2020, Tacoma Art Museum will open *The Naturalist & The Trickster: Audubon/RYAN!*. Although centuries apart, artists John James Audubon and RYAN! Feddersen draw inspiration from animals and the natural world to create compelling work that urges us to better understand the human impact on the environment. As 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, TAM presents this exhibition which explores themes of animals, environmentalism, and conservation.



John James Audubon (1785–1851)  
*Prairie Wolf (Canis latrans)*  
Plate LXXI, *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*  
hand colored lithograph, Printed by J.T. Bowen, Philadelphia,  
1845  
35 x 41 inches framed  
Collection of Huntsville Museum of Art

“Juxtaposing these two artists will present a very immersive and thought-provoking experience regarding perceptions of the natural world and relationships between humans and the environment,” said Faith Brower, TAM’s Haub Curator of Western American Art. “During Audubon’s life his prints were one of the ways that scientific information from the American West could be shared and studied. His respect and concern for the natural world clearly marks him as one of the forefathers of the modern conservation and environmental movements,” noted Brower.

Tacoma-based, RYAN! Feddersen, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation and a contemporary mixed media artist, explores the character of Coyote, the trickster, as a lens to examine current events. Feddersen's 75-foot mural encourages collaborative drawing with crayons cast in the shape of coyote bones which further links the community to Coyote's story. Also included in the exhibition will be Feddersen's recently created glass vessels produced during an artist residency at Museum of Glass in August 2019.

"Feddersen's engaging storytelling presents a contemporary perspective on the interactions of humans, animals, and the natural world in humorous and compelling ways," stated Brower.



RYAN! Feddersen (Born Wenatchee, Washington, 1984)  
*Coyote Bone Crayons*, 2020  
Box of cast crayons  
6 x 4 x ¼ inches, approximate  
Courtesy of the artist  
Photo © RYAN! Feddersen

### More about John James Audubon

In the early 1840s, renowned naturalist and artist John James Audubon (1785-1851) decided to document the animals of North America in detailed drawings. Having achieved worldwide fame with his multi-volume *Birds of America* series, he joined with his sons John Woodhouse and Victor Audubon, to complete the definitive study of American wildlife, and to present them in a format as impressive as he used for his birds. The results of his years of field research, travel, and study was *The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America*, the 19<sup>th</sup> century's seminal publication on American mammals. He eventually produced 150 folio drawings, hand-printed and hand-colored by J.T. Bowen of Philadelphia, PA.

### More about RYAN! Elizabeth Feddersen

RYAN! Elizabeth Feddersen (b.1984) specializes in creating interactive murals, site-specific installations, and immersive public artworks that invite audience engagement. She received a Bachelor of Fine Arts at Cornish College of the Arts in 2009, then remained in Seattle, working as an artist, curator, studio assistant, and arts administrator, until recently relocating to Tacoma, Washington. Feddersen grew up in Wenatchee, Washington as a part of a creative family with multiple cultural perspectives. She is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, from the Okanogan and Arrow Lakes bands, and of mixed European decent. Utilizing traditional Plateau storytelling applied to contemporary issues, historical research, and digital tools, Feddersen creates material applications which interrogate official histories, examining how what we think has been formed by the information we have been

taught. She explores creative strategies to activate participation through interactive materials, crowd sourced content, and social practice. These approaches enable her work to start conversations about a broad spectrum of subjects by offering opportunities for interaction and introspection. Feddersen recently received a National Fellowship in Visual Art from the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, Visual Artist Fellowship from Artist Trust and completed permanent public artworks *Synecdoche* for the Burke Museum in Seattle and *NEXUS* for the city of Tacoma's Prairie Line Trail. She has created large-scale interactive installations and site-specific pieces throughout North America, working with Seattle Office of Arts and Culture, the Museum of Art & History Santa Cruz, Seattle Art Museum, City of Tacoma, Alternator Centre, Missoula Art Museum, the College of New Jersey, and Northeastern University, as well as curated exhibitions for the Burke Museum, Museum of Northwest Art, and Center for Contemporary Native Art at the Portland Art Museum.

This exhibition was organized by Tacoma Art Museum. *John James Audubon: The Viviparous Quadrupeds of North America* portfolio is on loan from the Huntsville Museum of Art. RYAN! Feddersen's work is on loan courtesy of the artist.

The exhibition is generously supported by the Haub Family Endowment and, in part, ArtsFund.

### **Exhibition Dates**

February 1- May 10, 2020

### **Press Tour**

Tuesday, February 4, 10 am

Please contact Hillary Ryan at [hryan@tacomaartmuseum.org](mailto:hryan@tacomaartmuseum.org) to reserve your spot.

### **Education Programming**

#### **Artist Talk: RYAN! Feddersen**

Thursday, February 6, 6 pm

**RYAN! Feddersen** specializes in creating interactive murals, site-specific installations, and immersive public artworks that invite audience engagement. Join us to hear about her artistic practice, inspiration, and recent projects.

\$10 (\$5 members/students)

### **Storytelling and Mural Coloring with RYAN! Feddersen**

Thursday, April 16, 5-8 pm and Sunday, April 19, 2-5 pm

From Coyote's rebirth to having to evade the FBI, hear from artist RYAN! Feddersen as she tells the story of the *Coyote Now Epic* interactive installation. Visitors are invited to color in the drawings using handmade crayons shaped to look like coyote bones.

Cost: Free with admission

### **Public Mural Coloring Opportunities**

Neighborhood Nights, free to all every Thursday, 5-8 pm February 6 through May 7, 2020

Second Saturdays from 11 am-2 pm

Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 19 from 10 am-5pm

From Coyote's rebirth to having to evade the FBI, hear the story of the *Coyote Now Epic* interactive installation. Visitors are invited to color in the drawings using handmade crayons shaped to look like coyote bones.

Cost: Free with Museum admission

### **Homeschool Day: Scientific Illustration**

Wednesday, February 5, 10am – 2 pm

Scientists use sketches and drawings to record their findings. Be a scientist-artist for the day and explore John James Audubon's mammal drawings. Create your own scientific illustrations from real animal artifacts. Spend time exploring the galleries on your own with self-guided activities. Check out art-making activities in TAM Studio.

\$10 per student; one adult chaperone per family free (\$5 per additional adult); children under 4 free

### **TAM Teach! Teacher Workshop: Notes from the Field**

Thursday, April 23

Secondary workshop 3:30 – 6:30 pm, Elementary workshop 4:30 – 7:30 pm

Scientists use sketches and drawings to record their findings. Investigate works of art in the exhibition *The Naturalist & the Trickster: Audubon/RYAN!* Explore the intersections of art and science, and consider how you could use multi-modal learning in your own classroom. Includes STEM clock hours.

Cost: \$15 per person for a 3-hour workshop; clock hours provided

**About Tacoma Art Museum**

Celebrating over 80 years, Tacoma Art Museum is an anchor in Tacoma's downtown with a mission of connecting people through art. TAM's collection contains more than 5,000 works, with an emphasis on the art and artists of the Northwest and broader Western region, 25% of which consists of studio glass. The collection includes the largest retrospective museum collection of glass art by Tacoma native Dale Chihuly on permanent view; the most significant collection of studio art jewelry by Northwest artists; key holdings in 19th century European and 20th century American art; and one of the finest collections of Japanese woodblock prints on the West Coast. In 2012, TAM received a gift of more than 300 works of western American art from the Haub Family Collection, one of the premier such collections in the nation and the first major western American art museum collection in the Northwest. The Haub family also contributed \$20 million for an endowment and expansion completed in 2014. In January 2019, TAM inaugurated the Rebecca and Jack Benaroya Wing which features the extensive Benaroya collection of studio glass as well as TAM's own collection of studio glass, which was started in 1971. TAM is located in the heart of Tacoma's vibrant Museum District which consists of six museums including the Museum of Glass, a frequent collaborator.

**HOURS** – Tues–Sun 10 am–5 pm; FREE Neighborhood Nights every Thursday 5–8 pm

**ADMISSION** – \$18 Adult, \$15 Student/Senior (65+), \$40 Family (2 adults and up to four children age 6-18), Children 5 and under free every day. Children 18 and under free every Saturday. TAM Members; active duty military, reservists, veterans, and their families always free.

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