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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **Check Out Animals at the El Paso Museum of Art**

**EL PASO, Texas** – The El Paso Museum of Art (EPMA) invites the public to the inaugural presentation of a new groundbreaking exhibition, *Ethics, Excess, Extinction* that opens Friday, January 26.

The exhibit of contemporary art speaks in creative and compelling ways of the reality of endangered animals. The exhibition explores ways humans affect the animal world through themes ranging from poaching to pollution to consumerism. At a time when science teaches us more than ever about the interconnectedness of the global environment, these artists remind residents of our intimate connections with animals, as well as our complicity in their suffering.

“Notably, while *Ethics* approaches a sensitive issue, together the artworks in the exhibition weave a visually compelling tapestry encouraging us to rethink and engage with the problem in new ways,” said El Paso Museum of Art Senior Curator Dr. Patrick Shaw Cable.

The international array of artists includes several Americans such as Kiki Smith, Chris Jordan, and Esther Traugot, who variously used poetry, pathos, and sometimes the grotesque to evoke the plight of threatened species.

The EPMA will enrich the *Ethics, Excess, Extinction* exhibition through several educational programs and available merchandise in the museum store. The store will offer a book featuring the work of major artist Kiki Smith, earth-friendly solar lights by Solight Designs, and postcards.

On February 1, the EPMA will host an Educator Evening inviting teachers to enhance their curriculum through workshops and tours of the exhibition. The EPMA's special Family Day on April 14 will spotlight art by animals from the El Paso Zoo, created in conjunction with the Zoo's Animal Enrichment Program.

*Ethics, Excess, Extinction* was organized by Art Works for Change and curated by Randy Jayne Rosenberg. The exhibit is free and open to the public. The exhibit runs through May.

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