

For Immediate Release

**The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art presents
*Gwynn Murrill: Animal Nature***



Saturday, May 21–Sunday, July 31, 2022

Opening reception: Saturday, May 21, 4–7 PM

(Malibu, CA—May 17, 2022) Pepperdine University’s Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art presents the exhibition *Gwynn Murrill: Animal Nature*. For more than 50 years, Los Angeles-based artist Gwynn Murrill has been sculpting animals, striking a balance in her work between abstraction and realism. Developed in close collaboration with the artist, *Gwynn Murrill: Animal Nature* takes a retrospective look at her wide-ranging oeuvre. The exhibition features

early works from the 1970s carved from wood, alongside more recent work—including sculptures that merge animal and human forms—made in bronze, wood, marble, and clay.

Inspired in part by the contours of the Santa Monica Mountains, where Murrill has made her home for several decades, her smooth, streamlined forms capture the vitality of the animals she sculpts. Through close observation in real life and through photographs, Murrill pares animals down to their formal essences, conveying movement and personality through elegant, minimal gestures. In transforming observation into sculpture, Murrill also pays close attention to the space around her works, creating relationships between her animals that activate so-called negative space and emphasize the dynamism of these elusive living creatures.



In conjunction with the exhibition, the Weisman Museum has produced a coloring book designed by recent Pepperdine University graduate Carson Vandermade, with drawings based on Murrill's sculptures.

Gwynn Murrill: Animal Nature was initiated by the late Michael R. Zakian, director of the Weisman Museum of Art from 1995 to 2020, and curated by the museum's current director, Andrea Gyorody.

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday, May 21, 4–7 PM

The reception is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Please visit arts.pepperdine.edu/museum.

IMAGE CREDITS

Gwynn Murrill, *Tropical Bird*, 2004, koa wood.

Gwynn Murrill, *Bear Riding Cat*, 2021, ceramic.

Images courtesy of the artist.

Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Highway
Malibu, CA 90263

The Frederick R. Weisman Museum of Art at Pepperdine University was dedicated in September 1992, and since then, has showcased modern and contemporary art by internationally recognized artists, with a focus on the art of California. Past exhibitions include *Claes Oldenburg: Drawings* (2004), *Chihuly Los Angeles* (2005), *Jim Dine: Some Drawings* (2007), *Mercedes Matter: A Retrospective Exhibition* (2010), *Roy Lichtenstein: In Process* (2011), *Thiebaud: Works on Paper* (2014), *Andy Warhol: Life and Legends* (2016), *Larry Bell: Pacific Red* (2017), *Richard Diebenkorn: Beginnings, 1942–1955* (2019), *Rodin and Women: Muses, Sirens, Lovers* (2020), and *The Cultivators: Highlights from the Kinsey African American Art and History Collection*, in addition to numerous exhibitions drawn from the collection of the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation.

Located on Pepperdine's Malibu campus, the museum is open Tuesday–Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and is closed on Mondays and major holidays. Admission is always free and advance reservations are no longer required.

For more information, visit arts.pepperdine.edu/museum or call 310.506.4851.

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Press Contact

Andrea Gyorody, Director, Weisman Museum of Art
andrea.gyorody@pepperdine.edu, 310.506.7257

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