

Celebrating the Human-Animal Bond Through Art



ArtsWorcester presents *Dread Running*, a solo exhibition exploring animal euthanasia, pet culture, and human mourning by artist Catherine Smith. *Dread Running*, the winner of ArtsWorcester's Present Tense Prize, will be on view in ArtsWorcester's East Gallery, and on the organization's website, from Thursday, November 10, through Sunday, December 18, 2022.

As part of a series on mourning and physical loss, Smith retrieved discarded animal cremains from a Michigan shelter, near where she lived at the time. After combining them with ceramic glaze, she shaped them into forty-four relief sculptures that depict a running dog. The sculptures invoke Eadweard Muybridge's nineteenth-century motion-study photographs of an English mastiff, "Dread," which shaped our understanding of how dogs move. Smith then photographed her sculptures, and turned those photographs into a stop-motion video in which the dog runs again, forever.

At a moment in which we are obliged to reconsider our cultural and biological dominance over the non-human world, *Dread Running* asks us to look at painful truths about our relationship to animal life and death, and the end to many of those relationships. "Like Victorian hair wreaths, the individual pieces are relics of lost lives," says Smith. "When combined, they form a memorial to honor these animals—some old, some newly born, some unwanted and some lost, but once loved ferociously."

For *Dread Running*, Smith received ArtsWorcester's Present Tense Prize for new practices, artistic risk-taking, and excellence in execution. Smith has exhibited work across the United States, including a solo exhibition, *A Cabinet of Curiosities*, at the Danforth Art Museum in Framingham in 2020-2021. Her work is featured in several collections, most notably the Mattress Factory in Pittsburgh, PA, and the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, IL. She has been the recipient of numerous grants and residencies, most recently a Ruth Mott Foundation Grant in 2008.

Three public events, open and free to all, will take place for this exhibition. An opening reception will be held on Friday, November 11, from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. On Wednesday, November 16, Smith will give an artist talk on her process in the galleries. On Saturday, December 3, ArtsWorcester will host a panel discussion with the artist, veterinarian and author Dr. Karen Fine and Kristin Mullins, Executive Director of the Worcester Animal Rescue League. The galleries open that day at 9:15 AM, and the panel begins at 10:00 AM. All events are open and free to the public.

Gallery hours for *Dread Running* run Thursdays through Sundays, 12:00 to 5:00 PM, and are free and open to the public. The Present Tense Prize is generously supported by Marlene and David Persky and the Artist Prize Fund.

About ARTSWORCESTER

ArtsWorcester engages artists and the public to sustain and celebrate contemporary art. Each year, ArtsWorcester produces twenty exhibitions across three venues that are free and open to the public and exhibits the work of 300 emerging and established artists. Artist members take advantage of professional development through workshops, consultations, and critiques. Public programming is available to the community through events such as Teen Nights, artist talks, the annual College Show, and gallery tours.

Visiting ARTSWORCESTER

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