

Art in Law XVI

Animal Advocates

20 July – 11 November 2016

Curated by Marion Wassenaar



Image credit: Rachel H. Allan. From the series *Valerie groomed the horses procured for the lion's dinner*. 2016

Rachel H. Allan

Daniel Bloxham

Steph Cossens

Jackie Milford

The age of the anthropocene could be considered a distress signal that is marked by increasingly destructive human activity on planet Earth. The artists in Art in Law XVI each share concerns for the plight of animals as a result of this human-centred action. A question may be 'who is held captive' through engaging with these works? Is it the viewer who seeks to come to terms with issues surrounding vulnerability, loss of habitat, extinction and the ethical conscience surrounding animal rights? Or is it the animals themselves, helpless and threatened by human intervention?

Rachel H. Allan's photographs scratch at the surface of reality and investigate the notion of loss and fetishization. Her black mirror captures those who dwell behind the glass. Alive and dead.

Daniel Bloxham's work is involved with the harrowing position of the commodified, non-human animal in contemporary society. Using realistic drawing techniques as well as the accessibility of screen printing, Bloxham hopes

to draw attention to practices that involve the exploitation of non-human animals as well as addressing environmental implications that arise alongside this exploitation.

By bringing the animal into society and public places Steph Cossens creates a confrontation between the animal other in places they would not normally reside in order to reinstate the animal voice. By physically combining the human and non-human animal in costume to interact with the public, Cossens' hopes to implement a platform from where we as humans can initiate change in our perceptions of non-human animals as being purely a resource.

The intricate network of fine line in Jackie Milford's work invites the viewer in for close inspection. But the charm that draws us in can reveal a menacing aspect in the cycle of life and death and animal/human relationships.

