

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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*Unleash the Beast* - group exhibition of contemporary animal-themed work

Curated by Jennifer Eckstein and A. McLean Emenegger ([Milo + McLean](#))

[Arena 1 Gallery](#), 3026 Airport Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90405

September 4 – October 2, 2010

**OPENING RECEPTION:** Saturday, September 11, 6p – 9p

Regular gallery hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12p – 6p

*Unleash the Beast* is an exploration of contemporary animal-themed work, including drawing, photography, sculpture, and painting. Featured artists include: **Lisa Adams, Nancy Baker Cahill, Oksana Badrak, Grand Ole Bestiary, Laurie Hogin, Seonna Hong, Joshua Levine, Max Miceli, Cynthia Minet, Sharon Montrose, Fred Stonehouse, and Peter Zokosky.**

*Unleash the Beast* is curated by Jennifer Eckstein and A. McLean Emenegger.

Animals have been potent symbols since the beginning of recorded history. They are totems, mythological messengers, companions, and omens of luck-good and bad. From pictographs to provincial portrayals, depicted as beasts or best friends, animals are anthropomorphized to bear humanity's best and worst qualities.

In art, animals have been determined to play multiple characters from humorous to hellish, benign to bizarre, maudlin to mundane. Victorian-era Brits had a peculiar penchant for posing taxidermy pets in lavish dioramas. The art form of *singerie* depicts fashionably attired monkeys satirizing human behaviors. Whether it's kittens urging us to "Hang in There" or dogs are playing Five Card Stud, animals are part of our popular culture and visual vernacular.

As an alternative to focusing on the subjugation of animals and our (imposed) interdependence on them, *Unleash the Beast* allows the animals to reign supreme. A portion of sale proceeds will benefit the [Wildlife Wavstation](#).

Arena 1 is an exhibition space founded by Santa Monica Art Studios directors Yossi Govrin and Sherry Frumkin. Based in an historic hangar at the Santa Monica Airport, Arena 1 invites internationally known as well as newly established curators to develop innovative and compelling exhibitions.

Image caption: Joshua Levine (© 1972), *Trophy Head (TriHornedJarvalina)*, 2008, m/m, 32" x 25" x 28.5"

