

CORCORAN

GALLERY OF ART • COLLEGE of ART + DESIGN

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CORCORAN PRESENTS MIA FEUER: AN UNKINDNESS
Latest NOW at the Corcoran exhibition on view November 2, 2013–February 23, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On November 2, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design will present *Mia Feuer: An Unkindness*. On view through February 23, 2014, Mia Feuer’s new project for the Corcoran is a haunting vision of nature consumed, transformed, and twisted by human need. Inspired by the artist’s travels and experiences in the oil-producing landscapes of the Canadian tar sands, the Arctic Circle, and the Suez Canal, *An Unkindness* features three immersive installations that explore the relationships between failed human infrastructure, the natural world, and environmental catastrophe. Feuer is the first Washington, D.C.-based artist to be featured in a *NOW at the Corcoran* exhibition.



For the past several years, Feuer has traveled around the world to places where oil is extracted from the earth, and has created work that addresses the social and environmental effects of that process. In 2011 and 2012, she gained restricted access to an oil production plant in the tar sands of Alberta, Canada, where she observed an ecosystem reshaped—with nightmarish logic—by desolate plains, inverted trees, and imported birds of prey. Responding to this landscape, Feuer developed *An Unkindness*, the title of which refers to a gathering of ravens.

In the exhibition, Feuer merges imagery from the oil sands with her own experiences growing up in Canada and her research into ecological systems worldwide. The result is a series of immersive installations that are at once topical and deeply personal. “*An Unkindness* registers the profound consequences of oil production and consumption on our landscape, our politics, our emotions, and our daily lives,” says Sarah Newman, curator of contemporary art at the Corcoran. “Especially

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in relation to the ongoing debate about the Keystone Pipeline, Mia's work approaches a complex range of issues from an unexpected viewpoint, one which acknowledges its own deep integration in the culture of oil."

Sculptures inspired by sites and experiences from Feuer's travels will be installed in the Corcoran's Rotunda and galleries, including *An Unkindness*, a dramatic sculpture giving form to the exhibition's central imagery, and *Rink*, a synthetic black skating rink that is open to the public. *Dog Sled* was constructed on the deck of a sailing vessel during a trip to the Arctic Circle and made from, among other materials, Arctic Sea trash. "The expedition to the Arctic Circle, for the moment still untouched by off-shore drilling, gave me a new perspective on my own relationship with energy consumption and fossil fuels," says Feuer. "Almost all the materials used in the exhibition, including the synthetic black ice that composes *Rink*, are in some way derived from petroleum."

Rink will be open for public skating Wednesdays from 2 to 9 p.m., Thursdays and Fridays from 2 to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Friday, November 29 the rink will be open for skating from noon to 5 p.m. Visit <http://www.corcoran.org/exhibitions/mia-feuer-unkindness>.

Exhibition-related programs will take place November 6, November 13, and February 12 at the Corcoran. See *Mia Feuer Programs press release* for details. *NOW at the Corcoran* is the Gallery's contemporary art program dedicated to exhibitions and performances by emerging and mid-career artists. *NOW at the Corcoran* highlights work that addresses issues central to local, national, and global communities of Washington, D.C.

COLLEGE COLLABORATION

In developing *An Unkindness*, Feuer worked with several student and faculty representatives from the printmaking program at the Corcoran College of Art + Design to produce elements of her work, including an edition of screen-printed birch bark on tar paper for the hanging sculpture in the Rotunda. The Corcoran students worked with Feuer to develop the pattern using white ink on the black paper, and then produced the prints to wrap around trees suspended as part of the sculpture. "One of the fruitful aspects of working with a local artist such as Mia is the fact that she could be so directly involved with the Corcoran college programs. In this instance, students and faculty collaborated with her directly on the production of the work, which was a hugely valuable experience for everyone involved," said Newman. Students in the College's Exhibition Design program will design and build the skate rack that accompanies the rink.



ABOUT THE ARTIST

Feuer is the first Washington, D.C.-based artist to be featured in a *NOW at the Corcoran* exhibition. She received her BFA from University of Manitoba in Canada, and her MFA from the Department of Sculpture and Extended Media at Virginia Commonwealth University in 2009. She recently had solo exhibitions at Conner Contemporary, Washington, D.C. (2011); Atlanta Center for Contemporary Art (2011); Transformer Gallery, Washington, D.C. (2010); Arlington Arts Center (2010), and FLUXspace Gallery, Philadelphia (2009). Feuer's upcoming projects include exhibitions at the Klondike Institute for Arts and Humanities in The Yukon Territories, Canada; and RAW Gallery of Architecture and Design, Canada. Feuer has been awarded fellowships by the Bemis Center for Contemporary Art in Omaha, the D.C. Commission for Arts and Humanities, the Trawick Foundation, and the Canada Council for the Arts. She has taken part in numerous residencies, including Sculpture Space, Utica, NY; Vermont Studio Center; the MacDowell Colony for the Arts, NH; the Arctic Circle Artist Residency; and the Millay Colony for the Arts, NY. She teaches sculpture at George Mason University, VA, and lives and works in Washington, D.C.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission is \$10 for adults, and \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID). Free: children 12 and under, active duty military (with ID), Corcoran Members.

MEMBERSHIP

Corcoran Gallery of Art membership offers special access to the Corcoran's renowned collection, temporary exhibitions, lectures, films, concerts and an array of social events. Members also receive valuable discounts at the Corcoran Shop, Todd Gray's Muse at the Corcoran, and the Corcoran College of Art + Design. Corcoran Members may visit the Corcoran an unlimited number of times for free. For more information, contact the Membership office at (202) 639-1753, membership@corcoran.org or online at www.corcoran.org/membership.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

Established in 1869, the **Corcoran Gallery of Art** was one of America's first museums of art—dedicated, in the words of founder William Wilson Corcoran, to “encouraging American genius.” Today it is Washington, D.C.'s largest nonfederal art museum, known internationally for its distinguished collection of historical and modern American art as well as contemporary art, photography, European painting, sculpture, and the decorative arts. A dynamic schedule of special exhibitions complements a range of educational programming, which together enrich the perspectives of the visiting public, support the local arts community, and encourage thoughtful interpretation of today's most compelling social issues. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded as a school of art in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year accredited college of art and design. The College is one of the few in the nation whose educational model includes an integral relationship with a museum, fostering the talent of the next generation of artists. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.

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Additional support for *Mia Feuer: An Unkindness* is provided by Michael Nesbitt, the Women's Committee of the Corcoran, Julian Fore and Beverly Sauer, and Jerry and Tara Casagrande.

The official media sponsor for the exhibition is DC Magazine.



Images:

Page one: Mia Feuer, *An Unkindness*, 2013. Foam, feathers, tar paper, tar, wire, black enamel, shredded rubber tires, and powdered glass. Dimensions variable, approximately 15 x 30 x 10 ft. *Rink*, 2013. High density polyethylene polymer, wood, MDF, assorted hardware, and hockey skates. 16 x 27 x 5 ft. Installation view, Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C. © Mia Feuer, courtesy of the Corcoran Gallery of Art and CONNERSMITH. Photo by Paul Bothwell.

Page two: Printmaking instructor Matt McLaughlin, student Jennaway Pearson, and artist Mia Feuer study screenprint tests. Photo: Georgia Deal.

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