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CORCORAN PRESENTS CHARLOTTE DUMAS: ANIMA
Latest NOW at the Corcoran Exhibition on view July 14–October 28, 2012

WASHINGTON, D.C.—This summer, the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design presents *Charlotte Dumas: Anima* (July 14–October 28, 2012), the first solo exhibition in the United States by Dutch artist Charlotte Dumas and the fourth exhibition in *NOW at the Corcoran*, a program dedicated to showcasing work by mid-career and emerging artists. *Anima*, organized by Paul Roth, the Corcoran’s senior curator and director of photography and media arts, will showcase a newly-commissioned series of portraits in the



Corcoran’s Rotunda that show the majestic burial horses of Arlington National Cemetery, and will be accompanied by three earlier bodies of work, showing the artist’s range of approaches to her subjects.

A rising international contemporary artist, Dumas recently received widespread acclaim for her photographs of the surviving search and recovery dogs of 9/11. “Dumas’ photographs are intended to provoke a kind of interaction, one that is focused and intense, between her viewers and her subjects,” said Roth. “Her goal is to engender a visual relationship, so that the portrait makes us more conscious of how we look at animals in our everyday lives.”

Dumas, who travels the world making evocative formal portraits of animals, typically works in series, portraying animals characterized by their utility, social function, or by the way they relate to people. Drawing inspiration from classical portrait painting of the 17th-century Dutch Golden Age to explore the relationship between her subjects and their environment, Dumas often presents her subjects as heroic, engaged in a struggle of sorts against their marginalization or confinement, and against the spatial and psychological encroachment of people.

“The bond between mankind and animals, and the extensive history that it accompanies, is my great interest,” said the artist. “I investigate how we tend to use and regard animals for our own purposes, both literally

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and symbolically and the characteristics that we like to take to heart from them, and the ones we attribute to them.”

Commissioned by the Corcoran, Dumas recently began photographing Arlington National Cemetery’s burial horses while in their stables and at work. These Army horses, which belong to the Old Guard, the 3rd Infantry Regiment, carry soldiers to their final resting place in traditional military funerals. Additionally, the exhibition presents three earlier series of portraits that investigate the inner lives of particular animals: *Reverie* (2005) depicts gray wolves, alone and in packs, in forested nature preserves in Sweden, Norway, and the United States; *Palermo 7* (2006) contains close-up portraits of racehorses, with their heads tethered in place in their hippodrome stalls in Italy and France; and *Heart Shaped Hole* (2008) depicts stray dogs, adapting in different ways to the privation they experience on the streets of Palermo.

Starting this spring, Dumas will work in tandem with graduate students from the Corcoran’s Master of Arts



in New Media Photojournalism program—a pioneering academic program for visual journalists—to prepare a short documentary on her work. The documentary, which will be on view alongside *Anima*, will examine Dumas’s artistic process as she works to photograph the burial horses at Arlington National Cemetery. In the fall, Dumas will return to the Corcoran College of Art + Design for critiques and opportunities to discuss her work with students, and to present a public lecture at the end of October.

Charlotte Dumas: *Anima* is organized by the Corcoran Gallery of Art and made possible through the support of the Mondriaan Foundation and Services.



Kingdom of the Netherlands

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ABOUT CHARLOTTE DUMAS

Charlotte Dumas was born in Vlaardingen, the Netherlands, in 1977. She graduated from the Gerrit Rietveld Academie in Amsterdam in 2000 and continued her education at the Rijksakademie from 2001 to 2002. Her work has been included in many group exhibitions and in solo shows in the Netherlands, Italy, France, and the United States. Dumas has published several books, including *Retrieved* (2011), *Repose* (2010), and *Paradis* (2009), each dedicated to her portrait series. Charlotte Dumas lives and works in both Amsterdam and New York City. She is represented by Julie Saul Gallery in New York and by Galerie Paul Andriessse in Amsterdam.

ABOUT NOW AT THE CORCORAN

NOW at the Corcoran is the Gallery's contemporary art program dedicated to exhibitions of work by emerging and mid-career artists, highlighting work that addresses issues central to local, national, and global communities while simultaneously responding to the collections, history, and architecture of the museum. *NOW* programming has a dynamic and integrated relationship with the Corcoran College of Art + Design. As the only visual arts college in Washington, D.C., the Corcoran College of Art + Design's active base of practicing art students and faculty make it a natural center for creating, displaying, and thinking about contemporary art. For more information on *NOW at the Corcoran*, please visit www.corcoran.org/now.

VISITOR INFORMATION

The Corcoran's hours of operation are as follows: Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; closed Monday and Tuesday. Admission to *Charlotte Dumas: Anima* is FREE on Saturdays in accordance with the Corcoran's Free Summer Saturdays promotion. Admission Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Sunday is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors (62+) and students (with valid ID), children 12 and under, military (with valid ID) and Corcoran Members enter for free.

ABOUT THE CORCORAN

The Corcoran Gallery of Art, a privately funded institution, was founded in 1869. It was America's first dedicated art museum and today is Washington's largest nonfederal museum of art. It is 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. In addition, a dynamic schedule of special exhibitions is complemented and enhanced by a range of educational programming, which together seek to enrich perspectives, support the local arts community, and encourage interpretation. **The Corcoran College of Art + Design** was founded in 1890 and stands as Washington's only four-year college of art and design, offering BFA degrees in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Fine Art Photography, Graphic Design, Interior Design, and Photojournalism; a BA in Art Studies; a five-year Bachelor of Fine Arts/Master of Arts in Teaching (BFA/MAT); an AFA in Digital Media Design, Fine Art, Graphic Design, and Photography; and MA degrees in Art and the Book, Art Education, Exhibition Design, Interior Design, Master of Arts in Teaching, and New Media Photojournalism. The College's Continuing Education program offers part-time credit and non-credit classes for children and adults and draws more than 2,500 participants each year. For more information about the **Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design**, visit www.corcoran.org.



Images:

Page one: Charlotte Dumas, *Ringo, Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia*, 2012. Pigment inkjet print, 52 x 69 inches. Courtesy of the artist and Julie Saul Gallery, New York/Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam. © Charlotte Dumas.

Page two: Charlotte Dumas, *Erie, Kolmarden, Sweden*, 2005. Chromogenic color (Type-C) print, 29 x 37 2/5 inches. Collection Julie Saul Gallery, New York. Image courtesy of the artist and Galerie Paul Andriessse, Amsterdam/Julie Saul Gallery, New York. © Charlotte Dumas.