

**[STAND OUT]**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

“Learn to Know Your Hawks” by Luke Matjas.

## TRASH, TREASURE MERGE

### Art professor exhibits in Oxnard

Imagine a condor perched atop an abandoned Barcalounger and holding court over plastic chairs winding through barren tree branches. That’s just one image artist Luke Matjas brings to his first solo show, “That Great Rock Mass is Called the Earth.” Matjas, CSU Channel Islands associate professor and chair of art, is exhibiting more than 30 artworks at Oxnard’s Carnegie Art Museum until May 22.

Matjas offers an alternative perspective on SoCal’s flora, fauna and flotsam. His new work was inspired by a recent artist residency at Joshua Tree National Park. A number of his massive-scale, vibrantly colored digital prints, along with a series of intricately rendered graphite drawings, are on display.

“It’s safe to say these aren’t traditional portrayals of the local landscape,” Matjas said. “There’s a level of realism, but it’s more like a cross between a natural-history museum and your local Home Depot.” He weaves lifelike depictions of recognizable California flora and fauna with objects of suburban life, including coolers, sprinklers, lawn chairs, traffic cones, and poorly concealed cellphone towers. His piece, “Learn to Know Your Hawks,” is shown here.

In addition to the time spent in Joshua Tree, Matjas cites the local mountains, including Ventura County’s Santa Monica Mountains, as a significant influence. Amid some familiar Ventura landscape features, there are tributes to P-18, one of the local mountain lions struck by a car on the 101 Freeway, and Condor No. 358, the California condor that died after becoming entangled in a recreational rope atop Tar Creek Falls in Los Padres National Forest.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays and 1-5 p.m. Sundays (closed on holidays) at 424 South C St., Oxnard. Admission is \$4 adults, \$2 seniors and students, \$1 children 6 and older, and free for children younger than 6 and museum members. Free parking is available.

For more information, call 385-8158 or visit [www.Carnegieam.org](http://www.Carnegieam.org).