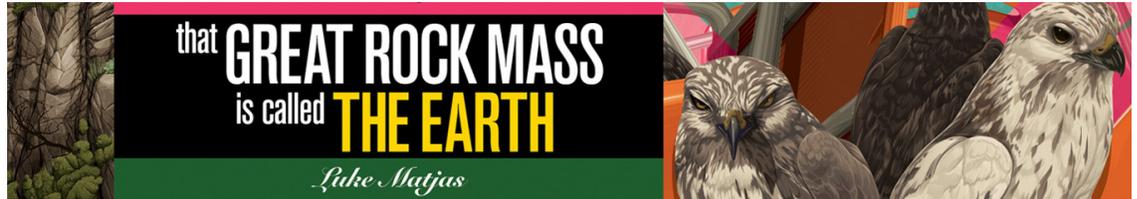




## Exhibition Advisory



Oxnard, CA - February 17, 2016

### **Condors to Coolers: CI Art Professor Exhibits Work with Alternative Perspective on SoCal's Flora, Fauna, and Flotsam**

CSU Channel Islands (CI) Associate Professor and Chair of Art Luke Matjas will exhibit over 30 artworks in a large solo exhibition at Oxnard's Carnegie Art Museum. *That Great Rock Mass is Called the Earth* will be on display from March 13 to May 22, 2016, with a public reception held on Saturday, March 12, from 5 to 7pm. (CAM members free / non-members \$5).

Returning from a recent sabbatical and a stint as the Artist in Residence at Joshua Tree National Park, this will be Matjas' first-ever solo museum exhibition. The Carnegie Art Museum will feature a number of his massive-scale, vibrantly colored digital prints, along with a series of intricately rendered graphite drawings.

"It's safe to say these aren't traditional portrayals of the local landscape," Matjas describes, "there's a level of realism, but it's more like a cross between a natural history museum and your local Home Depot." In that sense, Matjas considers the work to be a more realistic portrait of our surroundings – one that combines the natural and the unnatural. Hidden in the lifelike depictions of recognizable California flora and fauna, he weaves together the ever-present objects of suburban life, including coolers, sprinklers, lawn chairs, traffic cones, and poorly concealed cell phone towers.

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. Amidst 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, as well as Condor #358, the California condor that died after becoming entangled in a recreational rope atop Tar Creek Falls in the Los Padres National Forest.

**Location:** 424 South C Street Oxnard, CA 93030 805-385-8158 [Carnegieam.org](http://Carnegieam.org)

**Hours:** Thurs - Sat 10 am - 5 pm | Sun - 1 pm - 5 pm closed holidays and between exhibits

**Admission:** Adults \$4 Seniors & Students \$2 Children (6 and up) \$ under 6 free

- museum members free
- free parking

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