

## XTINCT by Laura Santini extended until May 28

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**The McCord Museum will be extending its display of XTINCT, a new work created by Montreal artist Laura Santini, until May 28. XTINCT was created to increase public awareness on the issue of endangered species and remind us of the harmful consequences of global warming on wild life and more particularly on the polar bear.**

This life-size sculpture depicts a fully-grown male polar bear lying on its stomach, head and body supported by a wooden structure and filled with organic materials so that its full dimensions and power are perceived. This mass is covered by layers of wire mesh to which hundreds of oyster shells (recovered from Montreal restaurants like Lucille's, L'Original, Joe Beef and more) have been woven thus imitating the thick and uneven fur of the polar bear with its beautiful palette of tones.

"The polar bear is a powerful symbol of the Arctic and its people. The aim of the sculpture is to raise awareness on the issue of extinction and the endangerment of the polar bear, the largest and most powerful land carnivore, and the small and often overlooked oyster, once thriving along the Canadian and U.S eastern seaboard and now also threatened by climate change. XTINCT is designed to make viewers reflect and act on these issues," states Laura Santini.

XTINCT is made up of organic and recycled materials. The repetitive, methodical and tedious technique of weaving the oyster shells emulates the irreversible and relentless cycle of destruction that is occurring on the planet.

The McCord Museum is pleased to present this work in conjunction with the Inuit Modern exhibition as the polar bear is an intrinsic part of the Inuit people's existence, landscape and culture.

**About Laura Santini (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo9nukguSuU>)**

Born in Milano, Italy in 1960, Laura Santini (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fo9nukguSuU>) moved to Canada in 1976 and attended McGill University (Montreal) where she completed an Honours Bachelor's Degree in Art History. She subsequently completed a Master's Degree in Studio Art specializing in sculpture at New York University in 1985. The artist presented her first solo exhibition to the public in 1988 followed by several other individual exhibitions in Canada and the United States. Since then, Ms. Santini has exhibited widely throughout North America and Europe and has completed public monumental works and is represented in many private collections.



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