

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY**

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**CATHERINE COAN**  
**"I'M GAME"**

**July 16, 2016 – September 4, 2016**  
**Opening reception: Saturday, July 16, 2016 6-9 PM**

Lois Lambert Gallery presents "I'm Game",  
an exhibition of painting, assemblage and  
hybrid taxidermy by artist Catherine Coan.

Coan incorporates taxidermy into dreamlike life-size dioramas, challenging how we think about our relationship with the natural world; "what wildness means, what scares us, what makes our hearts sing". Taking cues from the classic taxidermy houses of Paris, Coan uses her skills as an artist to bring the exotic into the everyday. Catherine explores the relationship between nature and humanity by creating taxidermy hybrid animals, which brings together animals that might not naturally encounter one another in nature and mankind's history of experimenting on animals, genetic engineering, and animal cloning. Coan places them into her life-size maquette, which is constructed months before installation, using wallpaper, painted antique furniture, altered and framed prints, and mounts. Catherine decides compositions intuitively, usually by the position of the taxidermic bodies in the diorama, or by hair pattern, and how they will fit into their surroundings. She then edits and corrects until she is satisfied with the piece's appearance.

Moving through Catherine's installations will make you feel as though you have stepped back into the Victorian era, made even more remarkable by the life-size creatures inhabiting the space. As you walk through the scene, you are confronted by the questions of life, death and the existence of the animal in each of us. By bringing the wild into the well-behaved world of Victorian morality, Coan is able to make the ordinary, extraordinary. And by transporting the animals from the outside inside the home, onto our furniture, into our everyday lives, she is able to deliver the untamed into our dreams. Inspired by poets like Billy Collins and Ron Koertge, and artists like Rauschenberg and Kienholz, Coan aims to elevate the common imagery of our daily lives.

"I'm Game" will bring you into an alternate universe where Victorian drawing rooms are inhabited with hybrid animals running wild. Coan's work invites you to a whole new experience, one where you might laugh, be scared, feel delight, confront death, let your imagination run wild...the possibilities are endless.

**CATHERINE COAN** is an artist, hybrid taxidermist, writer, and professor living in Los Angeles. Her work has appeared in galleries in LA and across the country. She was a judge on the AMC TV series *Immortalized*.