

# The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

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Kathryn Spence, *short sharp notes, rolling or churring whistles, clear phrases*, 2010  
Courtesy of the artist and Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco

## Kathryn Spence Dirty and Clean

January 29 to June 10, 2012

Ridgefield (January 2012): Kathryn Spence is inspired by nature in the production of her sculptures and installations. Using found, dirty, and discarded materials, the San Francisco-based artist accurately re-creates wildlife from scraps of paper, fabric, string and wire.

On January 29, 2012, The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum's new exhibition, *Kathryn Spence: Dirty and Clean*, will present the work of the avid birder and lover of nature. Spence, who is capable of distinguishing particular species from a great distance, creates rabbits, owls, foxes, butterflies, and birds—albeit made of discarded materials—portraying clear, distinct personalities and identities with incredible exactitude. The exhibition will remain on view through June 10, 2012.

The exhibition at The Aldrich will present a series of native animals that Spence considers “clean,” since, as she states, “nature does not produce waste.” Curator Mónica Ramírez-Montagut explains, “Spence’s nuanced, obsessive, and busy gathering of seemingly ‘dirty’ used materials has its counterpart in the way she impeccably reorganizes them in the studio. Eventually her pristine order and intense transformation renders them into unique creatures ready to inhabit the ‘clean’ space of the museum gallery. Paradoxically, the artist considers that on occasion her work has the opposite effect: she dirties the gathered materials because the dirt distances them from ‘consumer’ sensibility; in those cases it is the dirt that ‘cleans’ the sculptures.”

**Found Opening:** The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum will celebrate the opening of *Kathryn Spence: Dirty and Clean* along with five other *Found* exhibitions—by artists who work with appropriated ideas and salvaged materials—at a reception on Sunday, January 29, 2012, from 3 to 5 pm (\$7 adults; \$4 seniors; FREE for members, pre-K–12 teachers, and children 18 and under). Prior to the reception, the Museum will host a panel from 2 to 3 pm, where artists Barrão, Jim Dingilian, Roy McMakin, and Kathryn Spence will discuss their relationships with the found objects central to their work. Onsite parking is available, as is direct round-trip transportation from New York City. Reserve your seat on the January 29 Aldrich shuttle, now leaving from a new location; please consult aldrichart.org for particulars.

**Also on view:** *Barrão: Mashups*, *Jim Dingilian: Subtractive Images*, *Roy McMakin: Middle*, *Regina Silveira: In Absentia (Collection)*, and *Xu Bing: Tobacco Project*.

**Sponsors:** The Aldrich is supported, in part, by the Connecticut Office of the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Art Works. The official media sponsors of exhibition openings are *Ridgefield Magazine* and WSHU Public Radio. Portions of this exhibition were previously shown at Mills College Art Museum, Oakland (2010).

**Artist:** Kathryn Spence was born in Stuttgart, Germany, in 1963. She earned her BFA from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and her MFA from Mills College, Oakland, CA. Spence is represented by Stephen Wirtz Gallery, San Francisco.

**Museum:** The Aldrich is one of the few independent, non-collecting contemporary art museums in the United States, and the only museum in Connecticut devoted to contemporary art. The Aldrich is accredited by the American Association of Museums. Founded on Ridgefield's historic Main Street in 1964, the Museum concentrates its exhibition program on solo exhibitions by emerging and mid-career artists, complemented by acclaimed gallery-based education programs that use the work on view to help adults, families, and over 7,000 students annually to connect to our world through contemporary art. The Museum is located at 258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877. All exhibitions and programs are handicapped accessible. Free on-site parking. Regular Museum hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon to 5 pm. For more information call 203.438.4519.

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