

# PRESS RELEASE

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## The McCord Museum presents *XTINCT*, a sculpture by Laura Santini

**Montreal, March 1, 2012** - The McCord Museum is proud to present *XTINCT*, a new work created by Montreal artist Laura Santini. *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. *XTINCT* will be on display until the end of April.

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 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

Born in Milano, Italy in 1960, Laura Santini 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.

### About the McCord Museum

The McCord Museum is dedicated to the preservation, study and appreciation of Montreal's history, as recounted by its people, artists and communities living in the city's past and present. The McCord Museum is home to one of the largest historical collections in North America, consisting of First Peoples objects, costumes and textiles, photographs, decorative and visual artworks, and textual archives, totalling more than 1.4 million artefacts. The McCord Museum produces exciting exhibitions



Laura Santini, *XTINCT*  
2011

Oyster shells woven on a wire mesh; wooden structure filled with organic materials; found objects.  
84 x 290 x 244 cms



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