



Animal Matters

Seminar Series from

Tufts Center for Animals and Public Policy

Spring 2018: The Intersection of Art and Animals Series

Toys for Elephants: Designing and Building Enrichment Objects for Elephants

Rick and Laura Brown

Co-Founders, Handhouse Studio
Faculty, Massachusetts College of Art

Tuesday, February 13th at Noon

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University
Varis Lecture Hall (VLH)
behind the Hospital for Large Animals

Members of the public are invited to this free seminar

Join us on campus or remotely!
http://vet.tufts.edu/capp/animal_matters/

Professor Rick Brown and Laura Brown learned of two beloved 8,000 lb. Asian elephants in 2010 named Emily and Ruth living at the Buttonwood Zoo in New Bedford, MA. After speaking with the zoo's directors and learning about the elephants' need for stimulation they realized that this would be the perfect challenge for art and design students. Rick Brown designed the "Toys for Elephants" program and introduced it at Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston, MA, in collaboration with Handhouse Studio.

The Toys for Elephants project is an interface between science and art as well as a public service collaboration between three non-profit educational organizations: Handhouse Studio, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, and The Buttonwood Zoo. Now in its 7th year, the Toys for Elephants program and its innovative approach to interdisciplinary design and problem-solving, hopes to serve as a model for similar programs at zoos across the country.

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