

# Resource, Threat, Sacred, Disposable, Eaten, Preserved: Animals in Art, Education & Research

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## **Abstract**

**The presenters demonstrate through examples from contemporary art, visual culture, museum archive photos, theory, and research how they have explored ontology, epistemology as well as the practices of art and education in relation to animal ethics. Perceived by the presenters as an inherent issues in the realization of healthy and democratic cultures and societies are environmental and animal rights. Animal studies and work against speciesism add to and partially align with the social movement of disability studies, contemporary civil rights activism, feminism, and environmentalism focused on post-anthropocentrism, and activism for sexual and gender diversity. Through examples from contemporary art and artistic research, the presenters explore how art education might rethink the human - animal relationship and how this would contribute to the move towards more humane and democratic education and society. While animal studies perspective is an important addition to social movements, we argue that the issues should be considered from a nonhuman perspective. Hence, there is a difference between animal studies and other social movements, due to the historical divide between human and**

**animal.**

**Through pedagogical artistic and theoretical research and by presenting institution-specific cases, the presenters aim to question normative ways of thinking, generate broader questioning of unethical behavior, and explore arts possibilities for activism. The audience should be advised that some of the images and presented cases might be disturbing to younger or more sensitive audience members.**

### **Keywords**

Animal studies, Contemporary art, Art education pedagogy, Artistic research.