

**COMPASSION:
For the Animals Great & Small**

A project by artist Mary Ting

Opening: Wednesday, August 12, 2015, World Elephant Day, 6-8pm
August 12 – Sept. 27, 2015

COMPASSION: For the Animals Great & Small, an interdisciplinary project by artist Mary Ting opens on Wednesday, August 12, 2015, 6-8pm to coincide with World Elephant Day. In response to the current plight of elephants, rhinos, tigers, bears and other animals due to poaching for the Chinese market, Mary Ting has created **COMPASSION: For the Animals Great & Small**, an art exhibition and series of public programs to create awareness and promote change.

The exhibition features a series of drawings and an installation of recycled cardboard animal sculptures by the artist and her John Jay College students. Public programs will include weekend family arts and education workshops along with guest speakers from the Buddhist, traditional medicine and wildlife conservation communities. The closing day will conclude with an individual ivory crush. A detailed program schedule is forthcoming.

While China is considered the number one market in the world for illegal elephant ivory, few people realize that the number two market is New York. Most Chinese are also not aware that the ivory market is causing the deaths of 96 elephants per day and funding the terrorists groups in Africa. At this current rate, African elephants will be extinct within this decade due to the desire for ivory trinkets. Unfortunately elephants are not alone in this crisis, which includes the illegal harvesting of rhinos, tigers, bears, sharks, pangolins, turtles, and totoabas, among others for their body parts for use as decorative objects, luxury food products and traditional medicine.

For the artist, Mary Ting, "As Chinese people living in New York City it is imperative to educate ourselves and our children, refuse to buy or consume these products and show our compassion for these animals by valuing their existence as living creatures."

Mary Ting is a visual artist with over twenty-five years of exhibiting her work in New York City and internationally. Her work on memory, loss and nature has received awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, and the Gottlieb Foundation among others. Mary received her BFA from Parsons School of Design, a diploma from the Central Academy of Fine Art, Beijing, and a MFA from the Vermont College of Fine Arts. Mary teaches at John Jay College and at the Transart Institute MFA program.

For further information and inquiries regarding the artwork, group tours and workshops, please contact: Mary Ting, 212 260-7393, mtingstudio@aol.com

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