Biography: John Schuerman, Curator of the exhibition *ALL THIS IS TRUE: The Art of Sue Coe & Warrington Colescott*

John Schuerman is an independent curator and self-taught artist. Until recently he was the gallery director for *Instinct Art Gallery* in Minneapolis. Instinct was a contemporary gallery with an emphasis on art that honors the natural world. His deep interest in nature and human nature are reflected in both his art and his curatorial work, and primarily through group exhibitions focused on sociological themes. His aesthetic style and social consciousness formed as he grew up on a dairy farm in southern Wisconsin, coming of age during the cultural revolution of the late 60’s and early 70’s.

His Provocative exhibits engage viewers on today’s most pressing issues: Empathy, Human Overpopulation, Money, Time, Gender Perspectives, Identity, Environmental Art, and Politics.

**Artist Statement 2016: John Schuerman**

Humans are the most successful animal if measured by the ability to control one’s environment, or extend lifespan, or the ability to adapt or invent. We have been so successful that it sometimes feels like we are something different all together, maybe an anomaly, maybe a higher power. We make things that look like nothing else we see in nature. We think up stuff that doesn’t exist (fiction) and perhaps most puzzling, things that can’t exist (a perfect square, a Mobius strip). Our physicality and mortality bring us back and prove to us that we are natural beings. However, we can avoid thinking about this most of the time and remain in our perceived separation, so most of our endeavors remain at odds with the non-human world, upon which we depend.

Have we gone too far? Not far enough? Almost certainly, it is some of both. I try to remain aware of my humanity and my dependency on the non-human universe. I like to put human concepts into the natural order (and vice-versa) to remind others to wonder about human/non-human relationships.

The expressions of the non-human world have always fascinated me. The forms and patterns are so intricate, chaotic, iterative and yet without exact repetition. I feel at home with them around me. The forms and patterns of human expression are easy to see by contrast. Ideas, concepts, such as language, models, mathematics, abstraction (abstracting something is a very human thing to do) and human mark-making are all easily distinguished from the rest of nature’s patterns. I hope my art will help people wonder why and what it means to be human.