FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Shelby Graham, sesnon@ucsc.edu
Gallery: 831-459-3606
Office: 831-459-2314/831-459-5667

Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery and the Institute of the Arts and Sciences of the UCSC Arts Division
Present:

Crochet Coral Reef: CO2CA-CO2LA Ocean
By Margaret and Christine Wertheim and the Institute For Figuring
February 10 - May 6, 2017

■ Artist talk: February 10, 4:00 pm by Christine Wertheim
 at Digital Arts Research Center, DARC 108
■ Reception: Friday, February 10, 5:00 –7:00 pm
 at the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery
■ Artist meet & greet: Saturday, February 11, 2:00– 4:00 pm
 at the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery
■ Opening and Reception for the UC Santa Cruz Satellite Reef: May 4, 2014
 at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. – (January 4, 2017) The Crochet Coral Reef project, by Margaret and Christine Wertheim and the Institute For Figuring, responds to the environmental crisis of global warming and the escalating problem of oceanic plastic trash. Residing at the intersection of mathematics, marine biology, handicraft, and community art practice, the Crochet Coral Reef highlights not only the damage humans do to the earth's environment, but also our power for positive action. The project constitutes an elegiacally beautiful, artistically complex, and socially powerful way to bring citizens together around a devastating ecological challenge—the survival of the coral reefs and marine ecologies throughout the world.
The Crochet Coral Reef has been exhibited in art and science museums worldwide, including the Museum of Art and Design (New York), the Andy Warhol Museum (Pittsburgh), the Hayward Gallery (London), the Science Gallery (Dublin), and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History (Washington, DC).

In addition to the exhibition *Crochet Coral Reef: CO₂CA-CO₂LA Ocean* at the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery, related programming includes the creation of the *UC Santa Cruz Satellite Reef*, crocheted by UCSC students alongside faculty, staff and Santa Cruz community members. This latest addition to an ever-evolving wooly archipelago of crochet reefs worldwide, including Europe, Australia, Asia, and the United States, will be exhibited at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center beginning May 4, 2017. See ias.ucsc.edu for more details.

*Crochet Coral Reef: CO₂CA-CO₂LA Ocean* and the *UC Santa Cruz Satellite Reef* are sponsored and co-organized by the Institute of the Arts and Sciences in partnership with the Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery and the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. The Institute of the Arts and Sciences is part of UC Santa Cruz’s Arts Division. It is an interdisciplinary programming unit, which creates public exhibitions, public events, publications, and collaborations with faculty and students, aligning with UCSC’s teaching and research.

Sisters Margaret Wertheim (a science writer) and Christine Wertheim (a poet, writer and faculty member at the California Institute of the Arts) are co-founders of the Institute For Figuring, a Los Angeles non-profit devoted to the poetic and aesthetic dimensions of science and mathematics. The IFF is a "play tank" which develops artworks, exhibitions and programs that engage audiences in topics ranging from the physics of snowflakes to mathematical paper folding. www.theiff.org.

**Crochet circles for the UC Santa Cruz Satellite Reef**  
(Beginners welcome, yarn supplied)

**Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery**  
Wednesday evenings, 5-8 pm

**Seymour Marine Discovery Center:**  
Friday, February 3, 2-4 pm  
Friday, March 3, 2-4 pm  
Friday, April 7, 2-4 pm

More DATES and TIMES at ias.ucsc.edu.

**About Mary Porter Sesnon Art Gallery**  
The Sesnon Gallery encourages interdisciplinary discourse through the lens of the arts. Gallery hours are Tuesday–Saturday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesdays until 8 p.m. **It is closed for the university spring break March 25 - April 3, 2017.** The gallery is located at Porter College, UC Santa Cruz and is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free, and metered or special event parking is available at Porter College. Group tours are available by appointment at (831) 459-3606. Please visit: arts.ucsc.edu/sesnon.

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