

2016 TOP TENS
 RUSSELL CROTTY
 PHILLIP K SMITH III
 JOHN McLAUGHLIN
 CARMEN HERRERA
 TAOS SPOTLIGHT
 DESERT X

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Chief curator Scott Shields of the **Crocker Art Museum** in Sacramento announced that Bay Area artist **Cyrus Tilton** has won the **2016 John S. Knudson Prize**, the first year the prize has been awarded. Established in 2012 by a gift from the estate of art collector John S. Knudson, the prize recognizes emerging to mid-career California artists who have not yet had a solo show at a major art museum. The prize includes a sum of \$25,000, and will also entail a solo exhibition at the Crocker, slated for fall 2018. Tilton, a sculptor, is known for his deconstructed, vaguely surrealistic works that feature inventive use of materials and frequent references to nature. His 2011 show at Vessel Gallery in Oakland, "The Cycle," depicted several iterations of the lives of locusts, a potent allegory for our own society's penchant for obsessive consumption. Works included wall panels depicting locust eggs in soil, a swarm of nearly 500 whirring fabric locusts suspended from the ceiling, and a striking roomsize depiction of a pair of mating locusts made of steel wire and waxed muslin. Titled *Lovers*, the piece was on display again this fall as part of a crowd-sourcing campaign by the gallery, to help fund the work's potential purchase by a suitable institution and to support the artist, who is currently battling stage four esophageal cancer. The work found its home: in addition to the Knudson Prize, in December, the Crocker Art Museum also announced that they had accepted *Lovers* into their permanent collection.

"LOVERS," 2011, **Cyrus Tilton**

STEEL WIRE, MUSLIN AND WAX, 12' X 6½' X 6½'

PHOTO: COURTESY VESSEL GALLERY

