

The Art of Nature

Hues of harmony: Diverse Petals, United Roots



Columbus Botanical Garden (CBG) invites emerging and established artists to submit proposals for The Art of Nature: Celebrating diverse plants and people through art (AoN), a temporary indoor exhibition of art inspired by nature. AoN is a collaborative community art experience, combining the efforts of regional artists and thousands of Garden visitors to transform the Garden into a living tapestry of art.

The Columbus Botanical Garden, a private, non-profit organization, celebrates the beauty, inspiration, and wonder of the natural world, educating current and future stewards of its care. Our vision is to be an indispensable community asset bringing together beautiful and diverse plants and people. We value beauty, preservation, stewardship, education, and collaboration. We transform our community by providing a place like no other in Columbus and the surrounding community.

Columbus Botanical Garden is located on 40 acres in the rapidly developing North side of the river city of Columbus, Georgia. We strategically and intentionally seek out partnerships within our community to expand our mission footprint. Our education department teaches and engages thousands of students of all ages each year. We strive to be an important resource to our neighbors by delivering authentic experiences that are relevant to people of all ages and abilities and to improve the daily lives of individuals from all corners of our community. Our mission is first and foremost to transform people and we do it in a beautiful garden.

Interpretive Artwork Themes

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Many people in our current fast-paced world perceive nature as static and unchanging, perhaps even boring. They might take for granted the dynamic and diverse environment we inhabit in the Columbus valley region, specifically the unique features of the Fall Line – whether urban, suburban or rural. Two guiding themes emerge:

1. The natural world is dynamic and diverse. Artists should explore, highlight, and interpret these characteristics. As an extension, how are these same characteristics reflected in the Columbus area community?
2. We also challenge artists to explore, highlight, and interpret the interdependence between humans and the natural world, with an emphasis on environmental stewardship and our local natural resources.

Exhibit Information

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE	
June 13th, 2024	Request for art proposals disseminated
August 20th, 2024	Deadline for artist entries
August 23rd, 2024	Artist acceptance notification
September 1st, 2024	Signed artist agreement due
September 17th-20th, 2024	Installation of art
September 20th-October 5th, 2024	The exhibition opens to the public
October 6th, 2024	Exhibition closes
October 7th-14th, 2024	De-installation of art, coordinated between artist and CBG

The Art of Nature exhibition will be accessible to the public during regular operating hours; Sunday - Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m*.

*Some art may be accessible to facility rental guests after hours.

Exhibition Goals

- Allow guests to experience new ways of interacting with the natural environment.
- To showcase and celebrate the creativity of the Columbus cultural arts in our community and surrounding region and expose it to a broader audience.
- Spark conversations and inspire action regarding environmental conservation and stewardship.
- To elevate the cultural arts community through collaboration and partnerships.
- Facilitate innovative and engaging experiences, fostering a sense of wonder and joy of the natural world.

General Guidelines

- Twenty works of art will be selected for the exhibition
- Each artist may submit up to three pieces of artwork.
- Upon notification of selection, artists will be required to sign an Exhibitor Agreement.

Selection Process and Criteria

The Art of Nature is coordinated by Columbus Botanical Garden. Featured regional artists will be selected by a jury panel, which will include CBG staff as well as professionals from within the Columbus art community.

Selection Criteria:

- The artist must live or work within the City of Columbus or surrounding areas.
- Strong connection to exhibition goals and interpretive theme(s)
- Appeal to diverse and inter-generational audiences
- Must be appropriate for viewing by visitors of all ages.

Sales and Recognition

- All art may be for sale but must remain in the exhibition through the entire exhibition timeframe. CBG will work with the artist to handle sales of work, and will refer inquiries to the artist. There will be a 10% service charge of any sales that are made during the exhibition of the piece of art. All artwork sales will be done through the CBG website.
- The name of each artist will be featured on our website, on the printed exhibition brochure, and in exhibition-related media.

Installation/De-installation

- All activity on-site will be scheduled, coordinated, and supervised by CBG staff. We reserve the right to restrict activities due to site conditions caused by weather.
- It is the responsibility of the artist to arrange for the installation of artwork between September 17th-20th, 2024, and for complete removal after October 6, 2024. All work must take place with CBG staff present.
- Artists are responsible for all costs, equipment, and labor necessary for the Art. CBG will provide all materials needed to hang and display art pieces.
- It is the responsibility of the artist to transport and deliver any art sold as a result of the exhibition. Art cannot be removed from the exhibition early as a result of a sale.

Damages and Liability

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- Artists assume all risk and damage to the work before installation and after removal.
- CBG will provide insurance for any damage inflicted on the artwork by CBG staff. The art is insured from the time installation is complete until it is removed from the Garden by the removal deadline.
- CBG is fenced and locked nightly. The Garden is not responsible for damage to the art other than as described above.

Marketing/PR

- CBG reserves the right to photograph and reproduce images of the art, artists, and installation process for marketing, advancement, and educational materials both online and in print.
- CBG will promote the exhibition on our website and in media releases, print materials, paid advertising, billboards, and calendar listings.
- Artists are highly encouraged to participate in interviews or other promotional activities during the installation process.

Application Process

1. Completed application materials must be submitted through Dropbox by midnight, August 1st, 2024. Electronic applications are required. Applicants should email a link to a Dropbox folder containing all required elements to exhibitions cbg@gmail.com.



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Artist Proposal Requirements

Please submit all items listed below (Artist Information and Additional Materials) by midnight, August 1st, 2024. Electronic submissions are required. Email a link to a Dropbox folder containing all required elements to exhibitionscbg@gmail.com.

- **Artist Information**

- Resume/CV/Bio to include all of the following items:
 - Artist Name
 - Phone
 - Email
 - Address
 - Description of artist background and experiences
 - Reference list of successful exhibits and/or projects, which may include up to five photos

- **Additional Materials**

Proposals must include all of the elements listed below. Please keep identifying information (names, logos, etc.) out of all designs and descriptive materials requested below. Identifying information should only be provided in the above Artist Information, so as to provide anonymity to the jury panel during art selection.

- Dimensions of artwork.
- Up to 10 photographs (max 1200 pixels wide) showcasing artwork.
- Artist statement or explanation of connection to exhibition goals/themes for each piece of art submitted.
- Artists are able to submit up to 3 pieces of artwork per proposal, all three submissions are able to be selected for the art show.

**Columbus Botanical Garden reserves the right to use any and all images, renderings, and models for the promotion of the exhibition in print or electronic format.*