



Cornell University*



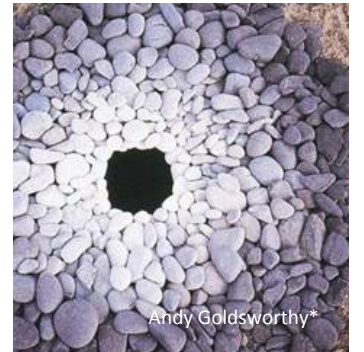
Sculpture by the Sea*



Alice Yoo*



Heather Jarch*



Andy Goldsworthy*

*Images for inspiration only

Request for Proposals

<http://bit.ly/WILDART>

WILD ART

A JOURNEY OFF-CANVAS



Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden



Request for Proposals

Wild Art: A Journey Off-Canvas

Friday, May 26 – Sunday, October 1, 2017

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden (LGBG) invites emerging and established artists to submit proposals for *Wild Art: A Journey Off-Canvas*, a temporary outdoor exhibition of art inspired by nature. *Wild Art* is a collaborative community art experience, combining the efforts of a dozen regional artists and thousands of Garden visitors to transform the Garden into a living tapestry of natural art.

Exhibition Schedule

November 28, 2016	Request for proposals (RFP) disseminated
December 8 and 10, 2016	Pre-proposal presentations (RSVP required; see pg. 6 for details)
January 15, 2017	Proposal deadline
February 1, 2017	Artist acceptance notification
February 15, 2017	Signed artist agreement due
May 15 – May 24, 2017	Installation of art
May 26, 2017	Exhibition opens to the public
October 1, 2017	Exhibition closes
October 2 – TBD	De-installation of art, coordinated between artist and LGBG

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

Founded in 1984, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a private, non-profit institution. Our mission is connecting people through plants to improve communities. After thirty-two years of rapid growth, the Garden now encompasses 82 acres, 4 lakes, 5,700 unique genera of plants within 15 distinct outdoor gardens, 11 major buildings, and an 80-acre branch site, the Lewis Ginter Nature Reserve.

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden continues to change and grow in remarkable and encouraging ways. Each year we teach, energize, and engage over 18,000 students, which is just a fraction of the 380,000 visitors who learn what a garden can mean for body and spirit as well as the mind. In 2016, we experienced record visitation driven by our horticulture and education programs as well as two concurrent exhibitions: *Butterflies LIVE!* and *Nature Connects: Art with LEGO® Bricks*.

In recent years the Garden has been honored with inclusion in a number of top ten lists of botanical gardens in North America, including being voted by USA Today readers as the Fourth Best Public Garden in North America in 2016. For the 650+ volunteers and 100 full- and part-time employees, the honors serve as spurs for continued commitment and effort. We strive to be an ever-stronger 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.

Exhibition Description

From Friday, May 26 – Sunday, October 1, 2017, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will feature an outdoor exhibition of art inspired by nature. *Wild Art: a Journey Off-Canvas* is a collaborative community art experience, combining the efforts of a dozen regional artists and thousands of Garden visitors to transform the Garden into a living tapestry of natural art.

Wild Art will feature twelve large-scale, site-specific art installations using nature as medium. The art installations will be comprised of materials found in the natural environment, in their natural state or minimally processed. Examples include live plants, fallen trees, limbs, vines, dried grasses, soil, sand, rock, water, metal ore, cotton, linen, silk, leather, and handmade paper. Ideally, the installations will be multi-sensory, inviting guests to interact safely with the installation, each other, and/or the surrounding landscape. One example of this is a collaborative installation, allowing the public to participate in the creation of the art over the course of the exhibition.

Artists will be selected through a competitive process to exhibit in predetermined locations within Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden's 50 acres of cultivated landscape. Possible settings for artwork include, but are not limited to: grassy areas; along the forest edge; in or next to lakes, ponds, and streams; and adjacent to habitats such as the wetland and meadow. *Links to a map and photographs of potential installation sites are available on the LGBG website: <http://bit.ly/WILDART>.*

In addition to the featured art installations, the Garden's Exhibitions Manager will coordinate pop-up ephemeral art created by partner organizations, staff, and volunteers. Creation Stations, also coordinated by the Garden's Exhibitions Manager, will allow self-guided opportunities for visitor-generated, nature-based art in designated areas of the Garden.

The *Wild Art* exhibition will be accessible to the public during regular operating hours; Friday - Wednesday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and select Thursdays from 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Some art may be accessible to facility rental guests after hours.

Exhibition Goals

- Entwine art and nature to spark new ways of interacting with the plant world
- Facilitate innovative and engaging experiences, fostering a sense of joy and wonder
- Spark conversations and inspire action regarding environmental stewardship
- Nurture partnerships that support the RVA arts community: professional, amateur, and next generation
- Showcase the breadth and depth of artistic talent in central Virginia.

Interpretive Themes

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 Richmond region – 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, using nature as the medium. As an extension, how are these same characteristics reflected in the Richmond 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.

General Guidelines

- Each artist may submit up to three proposals.
- Each artist may exhibit up to three works of art, receiving a \$3,000 stipend for each.
- At least 75% of the installation should come from either:
 - The natural environment (organic or inorganic). Examples include, but are not limited to: live plants, fallen trees, limbs, dried grasses, soil, sand, rock, water, metal ore, etc.
 - The natural environment, with minimal modification. Examples include, but are not limited to: natural fibers made into fabric, handmade paper, etc.
- 25% of the artwork can be comprised of highly processed natural materials or synthetic materials. Examples include plastic, pressure treated wood, rebar or other metal for a framework, etc.
- Ideally, the installations will be multi-sensory, inviting guests to interact safely with the installation, each other, or the surrounding landscape.
- Artists are responsible for procuring and providing all materials for art installations.
- Upon notification of selection, artists will be required to sign an Exhibitor Agreement.

Selection Process and Criteria

Wild Art: A Journey Off-Canvas is coordinated by Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden. Featured regional artists will be selected by a jury panel, which will include LGBG staff as well as professionals from within the Richmond art community.

Selection Criteria:

- The artist must live or work within 100 miles of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden
- At least 75% of the materials used in the artwork should come from the natural environment with very little modification. 25% of the artwork may be manufactured or processed materials.
- Strong connection to exhibition goals and interpretive theme(s)
- Multi-sensory and/or opportunities for interaction or collaboration with Garden guests
- Creative and imaginative use of materials
- Site-specific integration
- Ability to integrate into the landscape without damaging the surrounding plant material
- Durability; ability to weather the elements over the four-month exhibition
- Safety
- Accessibility
- Appeal to diverse and inter-generational audiences

Qualified artists must have the demonstrated ability to:

- Design, fabricate, and install public art.
- Coordinate willingly, promptly, harmoniously, and professionally with others (in this case, LGBG staff and volunteers).
- Act with integrity, courtesy, and responsibility, even in the face of stress or demanding conditions.

Stipend, Sales and Recognition

- Selected artists will receive a \$3,000 stipend for each piece of art exhibited (up to three installations). Half (50%) of the stipend is awarded upon signing the Artist Agreement and the remainder (50%) after installation is satisfactorily completed.
- LGBG will not own the works of art. However, upon mutual agreement, the artist may transfer ownership of the artwork to LGBG at the closing of the exhibition. This allows LGBG to exhibit the work for as long as desired and releases the artist from responsibility for removing the artwork after October 1, 2017.
- All art may be for sale but must remain in the exhibition through October 1, 2017. LGBG does not handle sales of work, but will refer inquiries to the artist. Artists are requested to donate to the Garden 15% of any sales that are made during or as a result of the exhibition of the piece of art.
- The name of each artist will be featured on our website, on the printed exhibition map, and in exhibition-related media.

Roles and Responsibilities

The safety and well-being of our guests as well as the health and integrity of the plant materials in our collection are vital to our mission. Therefore, it is necessary to adhere to the following criteria for design and installation.

Artwork

- Must be soundly constructed of durable and safe components to last the duration of the exhibition – please note that many will be located in high-traffic areas with an unsupervised audience.
- Must be suitable for outdoor display in adverse weather conditions (e.g. high winds, rain, and heat). It is the responsibility of the artist to repair any artwork damaged during adverse weather conditions.
- Must be appropriate for viewing by visitors of all ages.
- Must not encourage guests to contradict current Garden Guidelines. Examples are: no stepping in the planting beds; no collecting of live plants, seeds, flowers, fruits or vegetables from the Garden; no swimming or wading in fountains; no feeding wild animals, etc.
- The final location for each installation shall be determined by LGBG staff, taking into consideration site-specific design, impact on the plant material, and opportunities for visitor engagement.

- Any installations introducing live plant material to the Garden must be approved by LGBG staff due to the threat of invasive plant species and the spread of plant and/or soil diseases.
- Any interaction of the artwork with trees or other plants must be approved by LGBG staff. Nails, screws, hooks, or anything that penetrates or rubs the bark of a tree will not be allowed.
- Artists must take any and all precautions to protect all plant material directly adjacent to and surrounding the installation area.
- Any manufactured materials used in the installation must be safe for the environment. For example, material that leaches chemicals into the soil or waterways is prohibited.
- No removal of plant material will be allowed without approval by LGBG staff.
- No permanent or invasive devices will be allowed to be attached to trees or in planting areas.
- No painting, staining or coloring trees or other plants will be allowed without approval by LGBG staff.
- LGBG staff has final say as to what constitutes damage to the grounds and plant material.

Installation/De-installation

- All activity on-site will be scheduled, coordinated and supervised by LGBG 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 May 15 and May 24, 2017 and for complete removal after October 1, 2017. All work must take place with LGBG staff present.
- Artists are responsible for all costs, equipment and labor necessary for the delivery, installation, and removal of the art, materials, and rubbish.
- Artists assume all risk and damage to the work before/during installation and during/after removal.
- LGBG staff may provide installation and removal assistance on a limited basis with prior arrangement. Due to limited off-road access through the Garden, LGBG small workman vehicles, driven by Garden staff, may be available to assist in transporting structures or materials.
- Any construction requiring digging must be approved and supervised by LGBG staff due to underground irrigation lines and existing utilities.
- Artists must follow standard Garden Guidelines during installation/de-installation. Primarily, no stepping in the planting beds unless pre-approved by LGBG staff, which protects plant material and prevents the spread of plant and/ or soil diseases.
- The installation/de-installation site is accessible to the public during operating hours. Throughout the process, a safe and hazard-free work area must be maintained at all times.
- 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

- The artist must sign a waiver of liability or provide proof of insurance (e.g. worker's comp; liability naming Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc. as an additional named insured).

- Artists assume all risk and damage to the work before/during installation and during/after removal.
- LGBG will provide insurance for damage inflicted on the artwork by LGBG staff. The art is insured from the time installation is complete until it is removed from the Garden, by the removal deadline, or at the time ownership is transferred to the Garden by mutual consent (whichever comes first).
- LGBG is fenced and locked nightly. The Garden is not responsible for damage of the art other than as described above.
- The artist is responsible for any repairs to the artwork during the exhibition due to weather, vandalism, theft, or misuse by guests, unless ownership is transferred to LGBG (upon mutual agreement). Repairs must be completed within a reasonable period after notification by LGBG staff.
- Although weathering and decay of natural materials is to be expected, the Garden reserves the right to determine that a piece of art has become unsightly, irreparable, and/or unsafe before the end of the exhibition. The artist will be responsible for removing the artwork as soon as possible or transferring ownership to LGBG for removal (by mutual agreement). All removal of artwork will take place under the supervision of LGBG staff.

Marketing/PR

- LGBG 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.
- LGBG will promote the exhibition on our website and in media releases, print materials, paid advertising, and calendar listings.
- Artists are highly encouraged to participate in interviews or other promotional activities during the installation process.

Application Process

1. Artists are strongly encouraged to attend one of the Pre-Proposal Presentations at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden on either Thursday, December 8th at 4pm or on Saturday, December 10 at 1pm. The presentation will include an overview of the *Wild Art* RFP and a walking tour of the proposed sites for exhibition artwork. **RSVP required - email Kristin Thoroman at exhibitions@lewisginter.org**
2. Completed application materials must be submitted through Dropbox by midnight, January 15, 2017. Electronic applications are required. Applicants should email a link to a Dropbox folder containing all required elements to exhibitions@lewisginter.org.

Wild Art: A Journey Off-Canvas

Artist Proposal Requirements

Please submit all items listed below (**Artist Information** and **Additional Materials**) by midnight, January 15, 2017. Electronic submissions are required. Email a link to a Dropbox folder containing all required elements to exhibitions@lewisginter.org.

1. 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
- Statement: I agree to sign an Exhibitor Agreement outlining the scope of work if my proposal is accepted (electronic signature/initials)

2. 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 design selection.

- Scale plan and rendering of design – must include dimensions*.
- Up to 10 photographs (max 1200 pixels wide), including up to 4 detailed photographs*.
- Description of materials used in artwork, indicating approximate percentage of each material.
- Estimated budget.
- Preferred location for your art along with reasons for choosing that location. Please identify the location using the corresponding numbers on the Wild Art map, available on the LGBG website: <http://bit.ly/WILDART>.
- Artist statement or explanation of connection to exhibition goals/themes. Please include opportunities for interaction with artwork by Garden guests, if applicable.

**Lewis Ginter 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.*