

CALL TO ARTISTS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

A Sculpture Showcase Exhibit at The North Carolina Arboretum, an Affiliate of the University of North Carolina System

July 10, 2020

Theme Title: *Wild Art*

Exhibit Dates: April 1 – September 30, 2021

The North Carolina Arboretum is wild for art and nature in its 2021 summer exhibits. Our outdoor sculpture showcase will complement the concurrent indoor exhibit “A Life in the Wild,” Thomas D. Mangelsen’s legacy collection of 40 wildlife photographs taken over a lifetime of observing Earth’s last great wild places.

We invite artists to share the wild with Mangelsen and our guests by submitting sculptures inspired by the cherished animal kingdom – locally, regionally, and worldwide. We seek an inclusive and immersive outdoor sculpture show that will appeal to diverse, multi-generational audiences. A curated selection of sculptural pieces will allow guests to experience the wonders of the animal world through sight, sound, and movement. (Given the current challenges with COVID-19, we ask that artists submit works for which touch is not integral to its appeal.) Sculptures will appeal to the senses and focus on elements that will generate a “wow” and a lasting memory. We encourage designs that integrate kinetic components, inviting guests to experience art and nature through visually stimulating movement. Visitors will leave the show with a rejuvenated sense of wonder and an appreciation for art and the natural world.

Additional goals of the exhibit at the Arboretum are to:

- Display 12 to 18 artworks of varying style, scale, medium, form and intent that are representative of local, regional, and international artists and art communities.
- Utilize sculptural art to enhance the Arboretum landscape and grow a greater understanding of nature’s connection with the arts community through animal-inspired sculptures.
- Encourage dialogue through educational materials and programs that aim to educate about animals while increasing the public understanding of the role and value of public art.

Mission Statement for Art at The North Carolina Arboretum

Art at The North Carolina Arboretum honors and preserves the unique cultural and natural heritage of the region. The collection and exhibits, inspired by the land, the people, and the creative process, bring art and craft into public spaces enriching and stimulating thought and imagination.

DETAILED INFORMATION

Design Process

The artist will work independently to submit sculpture designed and fabricated to complement the theme of the showcase. A qualified jury will evaluate all submissions and make selections for the show. Successful designs will demonstrate creativity toward the show’s theme, show integrity of structure and craftsmanship, be water-resistant and stable, and be appropriate for public display for multi-generational audiences. The pieces must be of suitable

scale to the outdoor garden setting. Given the challenges with COVID-19, we ask that artists submit works for which touch is not integral to its appeal.

Project Site

The exhibit areas are the 3-acre main garden areas and the adjacent woodland and meadow at The North Carolina Arboretum. A map showing the general location of the exhibit area on page three of this Request for Proposals. More information about the show and site may be found at www.ncarboretum.org/wildart.

Submission Materials

Artist may submit up to three entries. Please prepare the following list of digital files for emailing to wildart2021@ncarboretum.org.

1. **Résumé** to include artist statement, web site and listing of exhibitions and awards.
2. **Completed SCULPTURE ENTRY FORM** on website.
3. You may share up to three images of promotional materials (invitations, posters, flyers, rack cards) that feature your work in previous shows (optional).

Stipend

Each artist will receive a stipend of \$1,500 USD to apply toward their work. This stipend is to assist the artist with associated costs, including transport to the site. The Arboretum will bear the cost of installing pieces with prearranged equipment and site preparation per artist's specifications on the **ONLINE ENTRY FORM**. Coordination with the Arboretum's leadership for any site impacts for the sculpture is also part of the artist's scope. If a design concept is selected (instead of a pre-built work), the artist will confirm the feasibility of completing the project within the estimated project time frame and assure their participation by completing a contract and Artwork Loan Agreement. Both documents will be made available upon request.

Awards

Awards will be given at \$2,500, first place; \$1,500, second place; \$1,000, third place and one \$500 honorable mention. A People's Choice Award of \$2,000 will be selected by popular vote of Arboretum members and guests at the close of the exhibit. A 40% commission on works sold during the show supports the Arboretum's ongoing exhibits programming.

Project Phases

- Phase I: Submission of Proposal – Due September 4, 2020
Selections finalized by Jury – September 25, 2020
Acceptance letters sent to artists – October 1, 2020
Site visit and/or discussion of installation with artist and Arboretum representatives – date and stipend payment TBD after contract is fully executed.
- Phase II: Schematic design and placement locations determined – Proposed completion November 30, 2020
- Phase III: Artists complete fabrication (if unbuilt work) – December 2020 – February 2021
- Phase IV: Installation of Exhibits – March 1-31, 2021
- Phase V: Installation opens to public – April 1 – September 30, 2021
Opening event date/programming TBD

Contract

The North Carolina Arboretum Society will issue a contract that is legally binding to the artist. The artist will complete the Arboretum Artwork Loan Form and contract as a final procedure for acceptance into the sculpture showcase.

Leadership

The Arboretum's senior director for mission delivery, director of horticulture and a board member of The North Carolina Arboretum Society will determine exact locations for each sculpture and work collaboratively with the artist to coordinate all placement details as required by the State of North Carolina.

Communication and Proposals submitted to:

Clara A. Curtis, Senior Director for Mission Delivery
The North Carolina Arboretum

100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville, NC 28806 wildart2021@ncarboretum.org, 828.665.2492 x218

