

Art on the Gwynns Falls Trail
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Introduction

Art on the Gwynns Falls Trail: A Place in Time is a unique exhibition of site-specific artwork placed throughout a rare urban wilderness park environment. What started as a way for students from the Maryland Institute College of Art to learn about site-specific installations and public art proposals has now grown into a fully accessible and inclusive arts festival for artists from every educational level and background to exhibit their work in this natural environment.

This year we are proud to host the work of twenty-three different artists and collectives from Maryland, Virginia, D.C., Pennsylvania, and Connecticut. The wide range of medium and technique these artists bring to the event truly reflects the unique quality of Art on the Trail as an exhibition and the diversity of the community that has supported and enjoyed it for the last seven years.

From subtle arrangements of living grasses and ambient sound installations along a wooded corridor, to mirrors floating in the stream reflecting glimpses of the tree canopy above, this exhibition has something for everyone to discover as you make your way along the Trail.

Inspired by this year's theme, A Place in Time, several artists reflected on the rich history of the show's location. 25 years ago marked the end of a 15 year battle between highway planners trying to build a highway over the park and citizens trying to preserve it, fortunately the citizens won. 150 years ago the property was known as The Crimea Estate, a summer retreat for the Winans family, and before that the land was used for grain farming. Ruins of farming structures and the Waterwheel that pumped water to the mansion are still visible along the Trail and stream.

Through this exhibition we have the opportunity to explore artists' response to the world around us in a site which has played a major role in both the natural and manmade environment of this region for hundreds of years.

We are grateful to the artists for their creativity, commitment and vision. We wish all visitors to our show an inspiring experience.

Thank You

Art on the Trail is a project of the Gwynns Falls Trail Council in partnership with the Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks and the Parks & People Foundation, with the support of Mayor Sheila Dixon, the Baltimore Office of Promotion & the Arts, the Maryland State Arts Council and Comcast.

We would like to thank all of our participating artists, the Art committee, the Art Jury and our committed volunteers for all of their hard work, support and assistance.

Special recognition and thanks go to Dickey Hill Elementary/Middle School for their art work and music performance under the committed leadership of Ms. Chance, Ms Parker and Mr. Massagli.

Refreshments for volunteers are provided by Whole Foods and Trader Joes.

Please check www.gwynnsfallstrail.org for Art on the Trail programs and other Trail events throughout the summer, as well as an audio podcast walking tour (available after the opening).

Views and opinions expressed by the artists/grantees are not necessarily those of the sponsors.

Cover Art: Ryan Patterson

Exhibiting Artists

Spiral is constructed of invasive vines and dead wood which have been gathered around the artist's neighborhood and the park. As the grass grows over the summer it will be woven into the vine structure to become a living version of the ancient natural symbol of growth.

23. Trunk Punks

Jillian Storms with Linda Heilman and Katie Elicker

A professional architect by trade, Jillian has extensive experience in the art and design fields as well. She has been part of many exhibitions in Baltimore and has served as a volunteer and board member for organizations such as the Baltimore Architecture Foundation and the Friends of Maryland Olmsted Parks & Landscapes.

Most people overlook the elegantly formed shelf bracket fungus (also known as conks or punk) that creeps up the sides of trees throughout the forest. Trunk Punks turns this common gray parasitic fungus into psychedelically colored celebrations of forest life. Hand sculpted and fitted to the circumference of each specific tree, Trunk Punks adds a sculpted horizontal plane and decorative element of celebration to the trees it graces.

24. Pyramid

Fred Merrill

Fred is a self-taught "visionary" artist who says he "gets inspired by spontaneous fantastic creations." While drawing and photography are long time hobbies, he has been contributing monster-like creatures built from scrap wood to Art on the Trail for years.

Pyramid is only the latest "temporary art hallucination" that Fred has exhibited on the Trail. In the past he has greeted visitors with monsters and robots in the same style of elegant scrap wood construction. For this year's installation Fred asks visitors to walk inside and experience the work as an otherworldly environment of its own

1. Tree Ring

Brooke Sturtevant

Brooke, who graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2001, was an original artist and organizer from the earliest incarnation of Art on the Trail. Since graduating, Brooke has continued to create temporary site specific sculptures for both the gallery and the outdoors. She describes her work as an "exploration of nature's architecture," where both the design and creation of her work are influenced largely by the physical layout of the site.

Tree Ring is comprised of split logs forming a circular relief sculpture around a tree, which mirrors the fall line of the tree canopy above. The ring, which can also be viewed as a protective border, is symbolic of the preventive measures citizens took to preserve the wilderness of Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. At one point in time during each day the shadow of the tree will fit exactly into the shape of the cut out, creating a "place in time" specifically for that tree.

2. Stonemason's Oasis

Ed Simmons

Ed Simmons, who grew up next to the park, still remembers playing and sledding there as a child. Ed has been a long time volunteer and committed advocate to the Park and Trail. He is a regular participant in the Trail Council's "Big Weed Out" and other clean-up events, and exhibits here for the second year. He is currently enrolled in sculpture classes at CCBC-Catonsville.

The Trail Council's "Big Weed Out" efforts have revealed an extensive array of carefully crafted stonework that was once part of the buildings of the Crimea estate. By building a sculpture using the historic stone pavers, Ed hopes to draw attention to the passage of time, and to pay homage to the creativity and the labors of those who've shaped, saved, and continue to care for Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park over all these years.

3. Overgrowth

Parkville High School National Art Honor Society

The Parkville High School NAHS is made up of students in grades 10-12 for the purpose of inspiring and recognizing those who have shown an outstanding

ability in art. The NAHS strives to aid members in working toward the attainment of the highest standards in art areas, and to bring art education to the attention of the school and community. Instructors: Anne Tallman Participating students include: Rebecca Mullinix, Dan Hoffman, Chelsea Vaught, Shelia Ruiz, Chelsea Pula, Chris Canova, Rowen Barber, Justin Caruso, Carlyn Thomas, Lauren Castellana, Caitlin Klimm, and Aehyun Shin.

Overgrowth represents the overgrowth of human culture and its evolution into the urban environment and out of nature. The branch-like structures represent inverted roots, growing upward through tiles depicting the urban environment. As our culture grows and changes progressively through time, the roots grow deeper into the urban environment and farther away from the Earth.

4. Stepping Stones

Girl Scout Troops 1734 & 1429

Girl Scout Troops 1734 and 1429 have been involved in numerous community service projects throughout the Baltimore Area and have organized events for their Girl Scouting community including Juliette Low's Birthday Party, Thinking Day, and the annual Girl Scout Talent Show. Troop Leaders: Amanda Smit and Valerie Grape.

Stepping Stones features mosaic depictions of seven song birds native to Maryland and easily spotted along the Gwynns Falls Trail. The girls researched the birds, drew pictures and then created the stepping stones from those pictures. River stones from the site were selected to display each bird's name next to its stone.

5. Islands of Light (Particle/Wave Interaction)

Fritz Horstman

An exhibiting professional artist, Fritz has created a number of environmentally based sculptures for both the public and private setting. He is currently living and working in Bethany, Connecticut.

Islands of Light is comprised of floating drums tethered to the stream bed below a bridge. Shifting position with the current of the moving water, the piece reflects the natural rhythms and harmonies of nature and the resonance that plays between the infinite range of wavelengths, both sonic and visual.

19. Water Wheel (Past Revolutions)

20. What is Now and What Could Have Been

Elsa M. Lankford

Elsa is a teacher, artist, musician, and composer. She teaches audio recording at Towson University, and is in her second year as an Assistant Professor. She holds an MFA in Interdisciplinary Art from Goddard College where she focused on environmental themes relating to urbanization issues through a variety of media and technology.

Water Wheel and What is Now and What Could Have Been are two separate sound installations audible on either end of the Old Wagon Road. Both are radiophonic compositions of raw material recorded on site. Elsa recorded the sounds of birds, water, trail activities, and more using them as individual instruments to make a composition which is melodic yet ambient to the site. Both pieces reference the long history of the park juxtaposed with the present as well as the narrowly avoided outcomes of the 1960's Road Wars.

21. The Brown Trout Hoddnott

Valeska Maria Populoh

Valeska Maria Populoh has lived in Baltimore since 2003. The city, from its industrial past to its current social and political dimensions, serves as a main source of inspiration for her work. Prior to moving to Baltimore, Valeska worked on environmental issues in Washington, DC. She now works as an art teacher.

The Brown Trout Hoddnott is inspired by historic photographs of farming families posing at the Waterwheel and the brown trout that probably once lived in this stream. The Winans' waterwheel once signified industrial progress but now serves as a monument to post-industrial decay. Since the construction of the wheel, new technological innovations have replaced the old, while the ecological health of the Gwynns Falls Watershed has declined. Constructed from found discarded lumber and plastic refuse collected from the streambed and watershed, The Brown Trout Hoddnott is inspired by the past while built with the pollutants of the present.

22. Spiral

Jude Asher

A local artist who finds value in working with "materials that other people discard," Jude has lived in Baltimore since 1981. She is active in the Herring Run Artists Network and a regular participant in events at the Creative Alliance, the SOWEBO Fest, and Art on the Trail.

16. Twenty five Green Stars

Maureen McNeely

Maureen graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art in 2006. She is currently living and working in Painesville, OH where she is teaching art at a senior care facility.

Twenty five Green Stars is an environmental sculpture commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary since citizen action stopped the Interstate from destroying the Gwynns Falls/Leakin Park. The piece consists of twenty-five “stars” formed out of high grass tied at the tip of each point and held down by the grasses’ own weight.

17. The Aliens Have Landed!

Renee Tantillo

A Baltimore artist working out of the Load of Fun Gallery, Renee says of her inclination towards the “heavy metals” side of gardening, “I was born with a brown thumb and having developed a proclivity for machines, what followed was almost ‘natural.’” She learned to weld by assisting another artist on a project; this coupled with the gearhead skills learned in her youth became a catalyst for creativity.

Unwanted, or at least unintended, visitors infiltrate and take over our native landscape. Some are weeds, some beautiful flora, some beautiful weeds, and some cold blooded killers. The Aliens Have Landed! is an installation of extremely foreign flora made from gears and other found metal objects to create even stranger breeds that sit among existing species.

18. Go Fly a Kite

Liz and Mike Phelan

Both born in and raised in Baltimore, Mike and Liz live in Northern Baltimore County where they own a construction company. Liz graduated from MICA in 1987 and is currently consumed with fiber arts. Mike enjoys hiking and photographing nature.

Go Fly a Kite was built of plywood, fabric and a mosaic head. It was inspired by the old fashioned activities of children before the age of television and computers. It is meant to be whimsical and to bring a smile to the visitors of Art on the Gwynns Falls Trail

6. Bird Feeders

Sara Allred

A local community artist and teacher, Sara currently teaches ceramics classes at Baltimore Clayworks. Before moving to Baltimore she was actively involved in teaching and organizing at Lillstreet Learning Center in Chicago, IL.

7. Trash Fish

Garbage Girls

The Garbage Girls are made up of three Dickeyville residents; Germaine Lannaux, Patricia Hawthorne and Stephanie Miller, who use the park extensively and respect the area for its environmental and aesthetic value. Trash Fish was inspired by the overwhelming amount of trash and recyclable material discarded in the park. All of this material ends up in the streams and storm drains, on its way to the Chesapeake Bay. This piece is an effort to connect the act of littering with the consequences, specifically environmental damage, represented by a fish made from the litter. All of the material for the fish was collected in the park and streams over the past year.

8. A Transitional Space

Belinda Chance

The Art teacher at nearby Dickey Hill Elementary/ Middle School, Belinda is committed to teaching children the power of art to overcome any adversity. This is the second year that Belinda and her students are participating in the Art on the Trail. She expresses gratitude toward having the Gwynns Falls Trail and the Park as a neighbor to the school and its students

A Transitional Space is intended to encourage viewers to feel at ease when venturing out of the comfort zone of their busy lives to experience a walk through nature. Belinda sees a lifetime as a journey that we all travel on, and this exhibit is a metaphorical rest stop along the way.

9. Free Range Doilies

Martha Simons

Martha Simons was raised in the Midwest, and is now living, working and making art in Baltimore. She is an obsessed knitter who has exhibited her work in many galleries throughout the city. Martha holds a degree in Fine Art from Indiana University where she designed costumes for the Opera. After stumbling upon a website which features crochet patterns for vintage doilies, Martha started creating and placing the doilies along the Baltimore Street environment. By applying these delicately crafted mandalas to the existing

streetscape, Free Range Doilies become both a symbol of protection upon the site as well as a subtle treasure meant to awaken commuters from their trance like processions. This is the first time Free Range Doilies are being installed in a natural environment.

10. Hubris Hurts: A Landscape Painting

Laura Elkins

Laura Elkins is an exhibiting painter who lives in Washington, D.C. This is Laura's second year of participating in Art on the Trail.

Hubris Hurts is a conceptual approach to the traditional genre of landscape painting. By arranging painting elements in three dimensions along the trail, she creates what she calls, "peripatetic work" where the viewer must move through the painting in order to see it. Hubris Hurts is part of the artist's HOME wRAP series.

11. The Stone Game

Laura Vernon-Russell (artist), Leslie Schwing (artist), Beverly Eisenberg (architect), Janet Young (scientist), Joan Bull (musician), Martha Simons (artist), and Katy Park (beautiful lady).

The Stone Game, created in 1994 by Leslie Schwing and Janet Young, has been used in many ways – as an art installation, a team building exercise for boards and corporations, an intellectual "sport" in academia, and a therapy tool.

The game is an abstract art game of inquiry and dialogue. Posing a question or problem, prior to play, stones and natural objects are collected by the players and ritually arranged in combination with glyph marks. In an outdoor setting, the glyph marks can be drawn in the sand or dirt, or arranged with sticks and twigs. The result, always an object of beauty, is also a relic of the query.

12. Crowns for the Crimea

Lara Ghelerter with Matthew Welsh

Artist Lara Ghelerter hails from the west coast and now calls Baltimore home. She received her BFA in painting from Oregon's Marylhurst University in 2003. Matt Welsh provided extensive assistance in the collection of materials and structural engineering of the project. Crowns of Crimea consists of 7 crowns constructed from natural elements found in the park. Branches, reeds, seed pods, and dried flowers form the crowns.

The shape of a crown serves as a nostalgic device relating to times past, while its integration into the forest structure represents the Park and its history as the Crimea Estate.

13. The Picnic

Rachel Valsing

Rachel Valsing is from Harrisburg, PA. She graduated from the Maryland Institute College of art with a BFA in General Fine Art in 2006 and a Masters of Art in Teaching in 2007. While at school she organized two successful art exhibitions bringing together the arts community of Baltimore and Harrisburg. She plans to stay in Baltimore teaching art to youth at both the school and community levels.

The Picnic is located near historic grilling and picnicking sites constructed when the Park was created in the early 1940s. The Picnic is intended to emphasize the purpose of these now unused eating grounds as places where people can take in the beauty of their surroundings while remembering the human scale of the park history with the simple act of eating a meal.

14. From the Inside Out

Vanessa Lopez

Currently pursuing her Masters in Art Education at the Maryland Institute College of Art, Vanessa's personal work often explores the idea of connection, particularly that between mother and daughter. Vanessa describes the experience of handling various materials that she works in as an emotional ritual that she seeks to bring the viewer into.

From the Inside Out is an exploration of ritual, maker and audience through a visceral experience. The life size portal is made from found materials. It "seeks to unite the viewer with the artist, the creation (itself) and nature."

15. Remnants

Lisa Kellner

An exhibiting professional artist, Lisa is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts, Fine Painting Program, and currently a candidate for her MFA at The Art Institute of Boston. Lisa has shown her work in a number of exhibitions in both Virginia and New York.

Remnants feature Lisa's biomorphic forms made from porcelain and white clay. The forms evoke images of tree roots and human organs. She explains, "They are the remains of essence found."