



關渡自然公園
GUANDU NATURE PARK
社團法人台北市野鳥學會

CALL FOR ARTISTS

2017 GUANDU INTERNATIONAL NATURE ART FESTIVAL (TAIPEI, TAIWAN)

“WITH PATHS CRISSCROSSING”

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES | AUGUST 6, 2017

ANNOUNCEMENT | AUGUST 16, 2017

RESIDENCY DATE | SEPTEMBER 30-NOVEMBER 6, 2017

Guandu Nature Park is inviting entries to 2017 Guandu International Nature Art Festival “With Paths Crisscrossing.” The selected artists will create their artworks in a natural setting using only natural or eco-friendly materials during a 5-week residency in Guandu Nature Park in Taipei, Taiwan. Artists who are concerned about the relationship between humans and nature are welcome to apply before the deadline on **August 6th, 2017**.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival, dating back to 2006, was Taiwan's first large-scale natural art event held in a conservation park. The park is located in Guandu wetland, a place with unique estuary culture and diverse ecosystem. The festival takes place annually and invites artists all over the world to create site-specific outdoor installations by using natural materials. The purpose of this event is not only about art and aesthetics but also about delivering messages caring for the environment. Public participation also plays a part in this event. Through communication and cooperation with local communities and volunteers, artists are able to learn from local wisdom and try to blend in the local culture in their works.

With the experience in the past ten years, this art event has come to a new stage by resetting its title into “Guandu International Nature Art Festival” since 2016. The triangle composed of river culture, wetland conservation, and environmental art is still the solid foundation of the curatorial concepts. Guandu International Nature Art Festival is expected to serve as a catalyst to deepen the public’s awareness of our environment, as well as care for local cultures. It is hoped that every single participant of this festival will take the initiative to connect with their surroundings, to get inspired by nature, and to make an effort in finding a way to a sustainable future.

- Website <http://www.guandu-natureart.tw/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/GuanduNatureArtFest/>
- Youtube <https://goo.gl/K5S3uE>
- Online Catalog <https://goo.gl/H4yqcj>

THEME

“With Paths Crisscrossing”

The Guandu plain was the first region in Taipei to be transformed into paddy fields by Han immigrants. Yet today, it is the largest and the last rice paddies in this city. This agricultural landscape was common in the past, but now has become rather rare and out of tune with the surrounding concrete buildings and non-stop traffic. People who enjoy this unique rural landscape are calling for preservation. However, behind the romantic scenes there are farmers striving to make a living with the challenges of the worsening economic and environmental conditions.

Each place has its own resources to raise its own people. Guandu is situated at the confluence of flowing rivers and brackish water. This estuary wetland is a great habitat for a rich variety of organisms, attracting flocks of migratory birds. The Ketagalan were the aboriginal Taiwanese people who first settled in this area. But, it was the Han immigrants who turned the grassy swamp into rice paddies that they still cultivate today. They also make a living with all variety of fish, shrimp and clams from the Tamsui River. After hundreds of years, the view of Guandu has dramatically changed as Taipei City continues to develop. More rice paddies are lost and replaced by factories and buildings. The water has been polluted by urban waste and people's lives are no longer linked with these farmlands. Due to the need for additional urban development, Taipei City is increasing its focus toward determining the future of these rice paddies.

Generation after generation of people have depended on the bounty of Guandu that has supported a great diversity of lives. The rice paddies, originally used for producing food for human beings, have also provided large areas of open water acting as wetland systems that have played a valuable ecological role. The importance of these roles is growing increasingly, especially when natural wetlands are disappearing rapidly in modern society. Furthermore, a variety of rice-growing culture and exquisite local knowledge have also been derived from the process of farming these lands. It reflects a close relationship between humans and nature. This wisdom could shine a light on our current search for an ecologically sustainable society.

Here in the Guandu plain, each of our attitudes towards the land has been recorded in detail: in the roads cutting through the rice paddies, in the irrigation canals spreading throughout the field, and in all the other traces we left during the process of modernization. Under the annual theme “With Paths Crisscrossing”, the 2017 Guandu International Nature Art Festival aims to explore the current status of Nature among the complex forces that shape the city, to disentangle the layers of urban spatiality from an environmental perspective, and to find ways for modern people to live sustainably in tune with Nature.

With paths crisscrossing on this land, our lives are all connected. If we can learn to humbly respect the land and the sky again, then not only can we expect the revival of Nature, but there will be much and much more to come back to bring balance to our modern lives.

VENUE

Guandu Nature Park www.gd-park.org.tw



Located at the junction of Tamsui River and Jilong River, Guandu Nature Park is a nature park of wetland preservation with landscape consisting of an integrated wetland environment of swamp and pond. It is a great inhabitation for a rich variety of organisms, as well as an important pass-by stop for migratory birds in their annual migration route. Hence, it has been recognized by BirdLife International as an “Important Bird Area” (IBA). The park, authorized by Taipei City Government, is currently administered under the Wild Bird Society of Taipei (WBST) and devotes care to wetland and wild birds’ conservation.

We will select 5-6 artists to create his/her artwork in the Main Area of Guandu Nature Park. Main Area is the region of the Park which opens for the public with admission hours and fees. It includes the Nature Center, birdwatching cabins, ponds, trails, and other educational facilities.

Other areas of the Park are preserved for birds and other wildlife which are restricted for public access. Visitors can observe these wildlife via telescope or attend the guided tour arranged by the Park in order to visit the restricted areas. In addition, the Park has designed many environmental education programs that give opportunities to people to interact with nature and acknowledge the importance of environmental preservation.

Possible Locations



TIMETABLE

Sep. 30	Artists arrive in Taipei; Hotel check-in
Oct. 1-6	Venue tour /Welcome party/ Field study
Oct. 7-31	Period of installation
Nov. 1-4	Preparation for the opening/Artist talk
Nov. 5	Opening
Nov. 6	Artist depart
Dec. 31	End of the artwork exhibition

★ Off days: Oct. 2, 9, 16, 22, 23, 30

★ Any change to the current timetable will be made in accordance with notifications from the organizer, and will be announced on the official website of Guandu Nature Park and Guandu International Nature Art Festival.

QUALIFICATION

1. Candidates should be interested in the relationship between nature, human, and environment and committed not to harm the environment during artwork creation.
2. Candidates should have experiences in working with volunteers, local residents, or students. While working on their artworks, they should be able to spark interest of general public to participate in the process of such artistic creation.
3. For the foreign candidates, it is required to have basic English conversation skills to communicate with the staff of Guandu Nature Park and the ability to mingle with other artists, local residents, and students.
4. Candidates should prepare a presentation to share their experience and previous artworks.
5. Artists as a group is eligible to apply. However, the organizer will offer only one funding (see below) for the group. Artists should agree to share all the funding & support without dispute.

FUNDING

1. **Artist's fee NTD\$ 80,000.**
According to the income tax rule in Taiwan, the organizer will deduct tax from the payment based on the applicable rate (e.g. 20% for non-resident) stipulated in the law. Therefore the actual amount the artists receive will be less than NTD\$ 80,000. The organizer will pay this fee by New Taiwan Dollars in cash.
2. **A round-trip airfare (economy class).** From artist's residency country to Taiwan. The reimbursement does not include the costs associated with passport & visa expenses. Artist

will have to book the ticket and pay the fee in advance by him/herself. The organizer will pay the reimbursement by New Taiwan Dollars in cash after artist's arrival in Taiwan.

3. **An airport pick-up** will be provided on the arrival day.
4. **Accommodation.** From September 30, 2017 (check -in) to November 6, 2017 (check-out). Each artist will receive accommodation in a single room with individual bathroom. For anyone accompany the artist, an additional bed and meal will be charged by the hotel accordingly.
5. **Materials support.** The organizer will assist to collect on-site natural materials (e.g. reed, wood, stone, bamboo, leaf etc.) or recycled objects. The organizer has a shared budget for all artists for purchasing materials like hemp ropes, eco-paints, bamboo etc. Artists who need to purchase materials must consult with the curator first.
6. **Meals.** Buffet breakfast will be served at the hotel. Lunch will be provided by Guandu Nature Park every working day. Dinners are not included. The average cost for a meal in Taiwan is between NTD\$ 80- 300.

HOW TO APPLY

1. E-mail the following files to: **festival@gd-park.org.tw**
2. **Personal CV.** Include your background and experience, awards, and past exhibitions. Be sure to include your full name, current mailing address, phone number, and nationality.
3. **Your motivations.** Explain why you want to apply for our event and the specific environment issues that you care about. (max. 1 page)
4. **An artwork proposal.** Include a brief description and a simple sketch. Artists can refine or modify their proposal to fit the space after the field study and site observation.
5. **A portfolio of your previous artworks.** Please introduce 6 of your previous related works with details of title, date of completion, the material used, and venue where they were exhibited.

We will only accept doc. or pdf. files for document and jpg. or jpeg. files for images. The size of each images file should be between 500KB to 1MB.

GUIDELINES & REQUIREMENTS

1. Use only environmental friendly materials.
2. Use local materials first.
3. Stability and secureness: Safety is our first priority. The artwork should be made to last at least 3 months or more. It should also be designed to weather gracefully over time and reveal the different stages as it decays. For safety concerns, the Park retains the authority to dispose or dismantle the artwork.
4. Community involvement: Artists will work with volunteers and local residents to create their artworks. Public participation is one of the key elements of this event.

CONTACT

1. Email festival@gd-park.org.tw
2. Phone +886-2-28587417 ext. 230 Ms. Yi-Fen JAN