

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

2026 Guandu International Nature Art Festival (Taipei, TAIWAN)

# “Mythic Habitat: Whispers of the spirits in the Wetland”

Guandu Nature Park is inviting entries to 2026 Guandu International Nature Art Festival “Mythic Habitat: Whispers of the spirits in the Wetland” . The selected artists will create their artworks in a natural setting using only natural or eco-friendly materials during a 4-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 June 15, 2026.

Deadline for Entries | June 15, 2026

Result Announcement | July 05, 2026

Residency Date | August 15- August 16, 2026 (Field Study); August 18- September 13, 2020 (Resident create artworks, Public Presentation & Opening Workshops)

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## About The Festival

Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival, dating back to 2006, was Taiwan's first large-scale natural art festival 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 Festival is not only about art and aesthetics but also about delivering messages caring for the environment. Public participation also plays an important part in the Festival. 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 two decades, the Festival has come to a new stage in 2016 by resetting its title to “Guandu International Nature Art Festival.” 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 the 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/>

## Theme

### “Mythic Habitat: Whispers of the spirits in the Wetland”

*The habitat we inhabit is more than a sanctuary for biological life; it is the cradle of human mythology. By turning our gaze once more toward the rhythmic pulse of these wetlands, we seek to rediscover the primordial spirituality—a force hijacked by modern civilization, yet one that has never truly vanished.*

The theme for the 2026 UN World Wetlands Day is "Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Preserving Cultural Heritage," aimed at exploring the deep-rooted connections between global wetland ecosystems and the cultural practices, traditions, and knowledge systems of local communities.

In response to this global call, we are re-examining the role of the Guandu Nature Park within a contemporary context. This marks a pivotal return to the curatorial subjectivity of the Guandu International Nature Art Festival, opening up new dimensions for interpretation. Following the 2025 theme, "Seeing Guandu: Nature as a Solution," which reflected on the festival's 20-year history and the cultural landscape of Guandu as a "place," we are now launching a three-year curatorial initiative. The inaugural year begins with the concept of "Myth," exploring the significance of nature through a mythological lens as a starting point to redefine the relationship between humanity and the environment.

In the Naturphilosophie of the 18th-century German Idealist Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph Schelling, myth is not a falsehood but a resonance between the human psyche and natural forces. It reflects the original unity between humanity and the essence of the cosmos. Schelling viewed myth as "primordial poetry" or a "true symbol"—a divine revelation felt within nature before the full awakening of consciousness. These myths externalize the power sensed in the natural world, capturing the "vitality" and "creativity" that logic alone cannot exhaust.

This cultural heritage continues to shape contemporary ecological philosophy. In 1972, when James Lovelock proposed the Gaia Hypothesis, emphasizing how environment and life co-construct one another, he undeniably drew upon the mythological archetype of Gaia—the Mother Earth—to describe the planet's creative capacity. Mythology has always been woven into our language. As the historic gateway to the Taipei Basin, Guandu has long been a confluence of diverse cultures and lifestyles—from the indigenous Ketagalan people to the Han settlers, and from traditional fishing and hunting to modern urban life. Guandu Temple, the oldest Mazu temple in Northern Taiwan, stands as a prime example of how religion manifests the early bond between humans and the natural world.

The French semiotician Roland Barthes noted that the function of myth is to "endow with meaning," transforming a concrete object into a vessel for abstract concepts.

The 2026 theme, "Mythic Habitat: Whispers of the Spirits in the Wetland," focuses on this interplay. We invite artists to explore the "Mythologization of Nature" through various paths:

- Re-interpreting ancient legends from different civilizations.
- Constructing "new myths" for contemporary ecology and climate change narratives.
- Drawing inspiration from the specific geographical and cultural tapestry of the Guandu region.

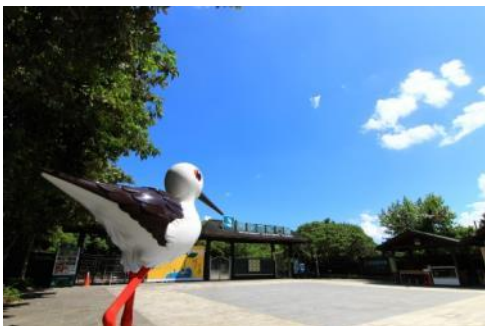
By doing so, we aim to return to the ancestral human spirit and reclaim the original spirituality that resides within the wetlands.

# Venue

1. Guandu Nature Park
2. Guandu Temple

Guandu Nature Park starts to host the Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival in 2006. Every year, several artworks are set in the main facility area of the park. The diverse environment provides artists with creativity and imagination, artworks create in different types of landscapes, such as in the forest, grass, lawns, ponds, mudflats, and etc. In 2020, we are cooperating with a historical hotel which runs for 50 years, adding a new location for artistic creation which near to the Guandu Metro Station. In order encourage the artist to integrate into the local communities and find the memory of Guandu, bring down the story of Guandu in the future.

1. Guandu Nature Park : <https://gd-park.org.tw/> (4 Artworks)



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 **4 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, bird watching cabins, ponds, trails, and other educational facilities.

Other areas of the Park are preserved for birds and other wildlife which are restricted to public access. Visitors can observe 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 for artwork:





2. Guandu Temple : <https://www.kuantu.org.tw/> (1 Artworks)

Guandu Temple, founded in 1712 in Taipei's Beitou District, is Northern Taiwan's oldest and most revered Mazu temple. As one of Taiwan's three primary Mazu pilgrimage sites, it sits at the scenic intersection of Mount Ling and the Tamsui River. The temple is celebrated for its ornate traditional craftsmanship, the Fortune God and Ancient Buddha Tunnels, and its role as a major spiritual landmark.

One artist will be selected to create an installation for the temple. The work will be situated in a high-visibility area accessible to the public.

Possible locations for artwork:





## Timetable

Field Study Period	Aug. 14	Artists Hotel check-in
	Aug. 15	Field study
	Aug. 16	Art Proposal Discussion
Residence Period	Aug. 18- Sep. 12	Period of installation
	Sep. 13	Opening Art Festival
	Sep. 14	Artist depart
Exhibition Period	Sep. 13- Dec. 31	End of the artwork exhibition

- ★ Off days (Mondays): Aug. 24, Aug. 31, Sep. 07
- ★ 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. Only accept Local Artists (with ROC Nationality) and Foreign Artists who resident in Taiwan (with Alien Resident Certificate or Alien Permanent Resident Certificate).
2. Artists should be interested in the relationship between nature, human, and environment and committed not to harm the environment during artwork creation.

3. Artists 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.
4. For the foreign applicants, 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.
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.

## How To Apply

We sincerely welcome artists to take part in this annual event. Deadline for proposal submission is **June 15, 2026**. The proposals can be written in either English or Chinese. Please make sure that you have the following documents ready, and submit via email at this address: [festival@gd-park.org.tw](mailto:festival@gd-park.org.tw)

### Required Documents :

We will only be accepting DOC or PDF files for document files and JPG and JPEG files for your image files. The size of each image file should be between 500KB-1MB.

#### A. Details of Proposal should include:

1. **Your motivations.** Explain why you want to apply for our event and the specific environment issues that you care about. (max. 1 page).
2. **An artwork proposal.** Include a brief description and a simple sketch or computer graphics. Drafts of your work including estimated size of the creation and materials needed. Artists can refine or modify their proposal to fit the space after the field study and site observation.
3. **Public interactivity.** Artists should design a public interactivity (workshop, performance, or any type of activity) to be implemented during the opening weekend.

#### B. Self-Introduction should include:

1. **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.
2. **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.

- \* Proposal completeness will be taken into serious consideration during the judging process.
- \* Submission will not be returned.
- \* The design should be new or original, not previously published or used in any country before the date of application for registration. Artists that enter with work that is not their original creation will be disqualified.

## 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. **Transportation.** Provide transportation fees (Domestic Flight, Taiwan High-Speed Rail, Taiwan railway, Bus, Metro, etc., the receipt must be retained) for domestic and foreign artists from artist' s residency place to Hotel. 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 Guandu.
3. **Pick-up/drop-off service** will be provided. However, artists who plan to have personal trips in Taiwan after the residency will have to take care of the transportation own-self.
4. **Accommodation.** From August 14, 2026 (check-in) to September 14, 2026 (check-out). Each artist will receive accommodation in a single room with individual bathroom. For anyone accompany the artist, an additional bed 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.** Lunch will be provided by Guandu Nature Park every working day. Breakfast and Dinners are not included. The average cost for a meal in Taiwan is between NTD\$ 120- 300.

7. **Local transport.** Artist can use the public transport system such as the metro, bus, or public bike to shuttle between the hotel and the Park and travel around Taipei. The organizer will provide an EasyCard with pre-stored value to the participant.

## 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.
5. Artist should prepare a public presentation to share their experience and previous artworks to local residents during the residency.
6. Artists should be involved in any related event such as press conference and opening.

## Contact

1. Email: [festival@gd-park.org.tw](mailto:festival@gd-park.org.tw)
2. Phone +886-2-28587417 ext. 230 (Mr. Anderson Kuo)