

CALL FOR ARTISTS

2021 Guandu International Nature Art Festival (Taipei, TAIWAN)

“Wetlands Orchestra”

Guandu Nature Park is inviting entries to 2021 Guandu International Nature Art Festival “Wetlands Orchestra”. 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 **July 24, 2021**.

Deadline for Entries | July 24, 2021

Result Announcement | August 14, 2021

Residency Date | September 08- September 10, 2021 (Field Study); October 12- November 07, 2021 (Resident create artworks, Public Presentation & Opening Workshops)

Due to COVID-19, eligibility requirements update.

In concern of COVID-19, to cooperate with entry Management Measures and Epidemic Prevention, we are having additional information and regulation updates on the Open Call.

Eligibility requirements for the Open Call this year will **only accept Local Artists (with ROC Nationality) and Foreign Artists who reside in Taiwan (with Alien Resident Certificate or Alien Permanent Resident Certificate)**. In consideration for the health and safety, declaration of illness is required. Please complete the **Health Declaration Form**.

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 ten years, 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 culture. 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/>
- Youtube <https://goo.gl/K5S3uE>
- Online Catalog <https://goo.gl/H4yqcj>

Theme

“Wetlands Orchestra”

Every field of nature is wonderful

—Aristotle

Guandu Nature Park is a wetland center on the alluvial plain at the junction of Tamshui River and Jilong River. The Park fulfills its multiple functions of wetland preservation, ecological conservation, bird species' habitat protection, leisure for general public, education and research. It also plays the vital role of wetland and water environment education center in the greater Taipei area.

The fertile wetland breeds lives and safeguards many waterfowls. The theme “Wetland Orchestra” has been selected specially to represent the connection of Guandu International Nature Art Festival and multiple sections of an orchestra. Each living thing in Mother Nature has the sound and story of its own. The sound of Mother Nature is also called the sound of science. However, it is not complete silence. In the state of inner peace, you still can hear the sounds of the earth, including the wetland symphony. Soundscape is the theme of the Nature Art Festival this year. Let us co-create harmonious and beautiful land art.

In the Wetland Orchestra, you can hear the chirping of birds and bugs, experience and enjoy the graceful mind flow of artistic creation and be touched by dialoging with this land. By participating in the planning and design activities of the Art Festival, your senses of different levels will be awakened to feel and appreciate all this by yourself.

Greek Philosopher Pythagoras believed in the power of music to produce great health benefits. Aristotle also talked about the value of music therapy. On the sensation level, music through five elements corresponds to the five types of emotion: joy, worry,

anger, sadness and fear. Mother nature is a never-ending and dynamic musical feast. "Wetland Orchestra" is aimed to not only stimulate auditory sensation, but also to build a friendly environment where humans and nature coexist and share prosperity in harmony. It connects the elements of music and art to deliver a healing effect to body and mind.

The Chinese character "樂", which means music, was originally both a pictograph and an ideograph. It later evolved into phono-semantic compounds. Its form is built on a tree at the base, reflecting the concept of rooting. "樂" also has different pronunciations expressing different levels of experiences: "Yue" for music appreciation, "Le" for fun and play, and "Yiao" for a joyful mind.

Guandu Nature Park is an ecological environment with plenty of trees and plants of different postures and morphological forms. Nourished by rainwater and sunshine, these trees and plants are growing tall and strong under meticulous care. Likewise, as the artists at Guandu International Nature Art Festival have created more artworks over the years, the Festival has been bearing more and more vigorous leaves and fruits of nature art.

Program Details: Wetlands Orchestra

The Art Festival is into its 16th year, featuring the soundscape of Guandu. Artists are invited to work on the collection of the sounds forming Guandu Plain, by adding soundscape interaction to large-scaled artworks and using sounds as an element of creation. Hence, sounds incorporated in the creation are not confined to striking or beating sounds of natural media. They can be prerecorded soundscape, music interaction or anything expressed by scanning a QR code.

Human beings have the first contact with this Planet through sounds. The crying sounds of newborn babies are the most original loveliness. This year's Art Festival will guide visitors to discover more confluence of sounds from people and nature and more findings with rich content. The sounds can be collected from nature in the Park, the daily lives of people outside the Park or any local soundscape. Based on the experiences of being inspired and touched by the natural ecosystem, artists are invited to explore and create their artworks from all kinds of observation, tracking, research and collection of the mystique and sounds in the natural ecosystem in the Nature Park.

The soundscape collection outside the park is also quite rich. The sounds of rice paddy fields of Baxian Farm, the working tractors and machines during busy farming seasons, fishermen's net casting and the waves at ferry piers have been shaping the local agricultural and fishing industries in Guandu. Its unique cultural soundscape can be found in evening drumming and morning bell striking in Guandu Temple, the temple block in Yunui Temple, Poe divination, people in Guandu Old Street, the ringing of school bell in Taipei National University of the Arts, the hawkers and vendors in the market, and elders chatting under the trees.

The sounds of Guandu are from nature and local culture. It is hoped that the theme of the Art Festival will raise the public's awareness about the everlasting and ubiquitous existence of soundscape in nature and our lives. Soundscape is part of our history and exists in people's memories. With the sensation of the amplitudes generated by sounds, people living in the present are offered a chance to look into the past. Through soundscape, we observe the

changes and evolution of the environment and the city, and feel the interweaving of nature and humanity.

There is no limitation on the form of artwork. It can be contemporary art, visual art, installation art, and sound art, using natural materials as priority media. The principle is to create the artworks in an environmentally friendly fashion to convey the value of habitat creation and biodiversity to raise the public's awareness on ecological conservation.

Venue

1. Guandu Nature Park
2. XDZ Hotel

Guandu Nature Park starts to host the Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival in 2006. Every year, several artworks are installed in the main facility area of the park. The diverse environment provides artists with creativity and imagination. The artworks are created in different types of landscapes, such as the forest, grass, lawns, ponds, mudflats, and etc. In 2021, we keep to cooperate 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 to 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/> (3 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 3 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. **XDZ Hotel** : <https://www.facebook.com/xdzhotel/>
(Artist's creation process display)



Along the busy Dadu Road, Taiwanese-style historical hotels stands in Guandu for half a century, witnessing the prosperity and passing of Guandu Railway Station, still silently guarding the land in Guandu, providing travelers and locals with quality accommodation away from home. In the early days, "XDZ Hotel" hung up their signboard at the corner of the main road to and from the train station. At that time, it was very lively in front of Guandu Railway Station. Following the demolition of the station in 1988, the hotel has been losing a lot of business.

Although the past prosperity no longer exists, some old guests still regularly visit the hotel for a short stay. XDZ Hotel is still being passionate and never ceased its business. By now XDZ Hotel has been renovated but it still retains some of its past appearances.

We will show the artist's creation process on the walls of the hotel. The creation process of the work is set up along the outdoor field of the hotel to the stairs to attract the attention of drivers/cyclists and the crowds to and from the metro station.

Possible locations for Artist's creation process display :



Timetable

Field Study Period	Sept. 08	Venue tour
	Sept. 09	Field study
	Sept. 10	Art Proposal Discussion
	Oct. 11	Artists Hotel check-in
Residence Period	Oct. 12- Nov. 06	Period of installation
	Nov. 07	Opening Art Festival
	Nov. 08	Artists depart
Exhibition Period	Nov. 07, 2021 -Jan. 09, 2022	End of the artwork exhibition

★ Off days (Mondays): Oct. 18, Oct. 25, Nov.01

★ 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.

Qualifications

1. **Only accept Local Artists (with ROC Nationality) and Foreign Artists who reside 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. Group application is allowed. However, the organizer will offer only one funding (see below) for the group. Artists should agree to share all the funding & support without disputes.

How To Apply

We sincerely welcome artists to take part in this annual event. Deadline for proposal submission is **July 18, 2021**. 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

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. Provide as specific as possible previously completed works or similar creation soundscape DEMO files and portfolios as reference.

* 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.

Health Declaration Form



<https://forms.gle/KZ5u3MFgqVmk1kyD6>

Due to COVID-19 disease, for the health and safety, declaration of illness is required. Please fill in the Health Declaration Form and make sure that the information you provide is accurate and complete.

Funding

1. **Artist's fee NTD\$ 80,000.** According to the income tax law 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 in New Taiwan Dollars in cash.
2. **Transportation.** Provide transportation fees (Domestic Flight, Taiwan High-Speed Rail, Taiwan railway, Bus, Metro, etc., the receipts 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 by themselves.
4. **Accommodation.** From October 01, 2020 (check-in) to November 02, 2020 (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 will not be provided. The average cost for a meal in Taiwan is around NTD 80-300.

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

Guidelines & Requirements

1. Use only environmentally friendly materials.
2. Use local materials first.
3. Stability and safety: Safety is our first priority. The artwork should be made to last at least 3 months or longer. It should also be designed to weather gracefully over time and reveal the different stages as it decays. For safety concerns, the Park reserves the right 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 experiences and previous artworks with local residents during the residency.
6. Artists should be involved in any related events such as press conferences and opening ceremony.

Contact

1. Email festival@gd-park.org.tw
2. Phone +886-2-28587417 ext. 230 (Ms. Yeh, Ray Fun)