

## CALL FOR ARTISTS

### 2023 Guandu International Nature Art Festival (Taipei, TAIWAN)

# Nature, a Gift

Guandu Nature Park calls for three artists with a focus on the human-nature relationship to participate in the 2023 Guandu International Nature Art Festival entitled “Nature, a Gift” Submission deadline is June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Selected artists will spend around four weeks as artists-in-residence in Guandu Nature Park and use natural or environmentally friendly materials to create artworks onsite that can convey environmental messages and raise awareness.

- Residency Date | August 10- 11, 2023 (Field Study); Aug. 15-Sep.9, 2023 (Resident create artworks); Sep.10 (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. Each year, multiple international artists are invited to use natural materials to create site-specific outdoor installations that can show beautiful aesthetics and communicate environmental messages. The creative process values public engagement and incorporates local culture through dialogue and cooperation. The event is rooted in Guandu Wetland with deep ecological conservation value and rich estuary culture. It creates a space for dialogue between man, art and nature and discusses the important topic of “human-nature relationship” in the hope of finding a balance point for the imbalance between modern society

and nature.

For the past ten years, the Festival has painted a blueprint for Guandu Nature Park on the coexistence of estuary culture, wetland conservation and environmental art. Resetting its title into “Guandu International Nature Art Festival” in 2016, the Festival, with over ten years of experience and inspiration, further puts into action to deepen the understanding and care of the place in the hope that everyone participating in the Festival will be more active in rebuilding the relationship between themselves and the environment and more inspired by nature to jointly find the direction for the sustainable future of life.

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

# Theme

## Nature, a Gift

### - Connection, Giving and Exchange

"Gifts" play a special role in the lives of mankind. Unlike general functional needs, gifts always contain a nature of connection between the giver and the receiver, even if these objects called "gifts" are no different from general objects. This mutual relationship played a social function in early human life, meaning that it was not limited to individuals, but more often a responsibility and obligation between groups, or a kind of unspoken contractual relationship, also implying a certain moral and ethical value (the receiver has the duty and responsibility to give back). This is deeply expounded in the famous work of Marcel Mauss, the anthropologist: "The Gift: Forms and Functions of Exchange in Archaic Societies", which traces the role gifts played in primitive societies. This kind of exchange activity, detached from the functional aspect of bartering in early human society, gave objects more of a human psychological color.

We always have countless reasons to give gifts to others (whether it's out of gratitude, admiration, or other motives). These objects always carry the intention (motivation) of the giver. In short, gifts contain the awareness and feelings of both the giver and the receiver, which create a connection between both sides. As a special object, gifts carry a certain spiritual significance due to this relationship they embody.

**Viewing nature as a gift** means perceiving nature as something that is given to us. This perspective reflects how we think about our relationship with nature and how we can establish a connection through this relationship. With the advancement of civilization and technology, the idea of viewing nature as a resource to be controlled and managed is a commonly held ideology, with an attitude that is often utilitarian and instrumental. However, this attitude has gradually become controversial, with the emergence of various environmental issues such as global warming, climate change, and biodiversity,

being wrapped up in the concept of Anthropocene. We are gradually realizing that nature is an organic system that operates as a whole (such as the Gaia hypothesis), which reminds us to rethink our relationship with nature. However, is there a more proactive attitude we can adopt towards our relationship with nature?

If the theme of the previous exhibition, "Healing, A Methodology," helped us discover the spiritual connections and functions of nature, this year's curation, "Nature, A Gift," represents an opener attitude towards exploring these relationships. By placing artistic creation within the framework of gift-giving, we aim to foster a kind and profound connection with nature, just as what we do with the act of giving gifts.

## **Call for Artists**

When we incorporate the act of gift-giving into our thinking, everything can be approached from different perspectives. Regarding nature, on one hand, it is more than just resources we rely on for survival; we should view it as a gift - an environment shaped by the exchange and interweaving of different ecosystems that has brought about our current way of life (with humans being just one part of it). As receivers, we should contemplate how to respond to this gift, and this exhibition is an attempt to consider how we can form deeper connections with nature from this standpoint.

As the main outlet of the Taipei Basin's water system, the Guandu Plain is a wetland that contains many biological activities and serves as a flood detention area to protect the safety of the Taipei metropolitan area. From early agricultural activities to urban development, industrial pollution, garbage crises, global warming and climate change, rising sea levels, and the decline of biodiversity, the Guandu Plain is almost a microcosm of the entire environmental issue. However, through the establishment of a conservation area, we have transformed it into a gift. Therefore, life is sustained and evolved through the gift of nature.

This year's curatorial theme for the Guandu International Nature Art Festival, "Nature, a Gift - Connection, Giving, and Exchange," is our gift to the Guandu Plain. We invite artists to respond to this theme through their artistic creations.

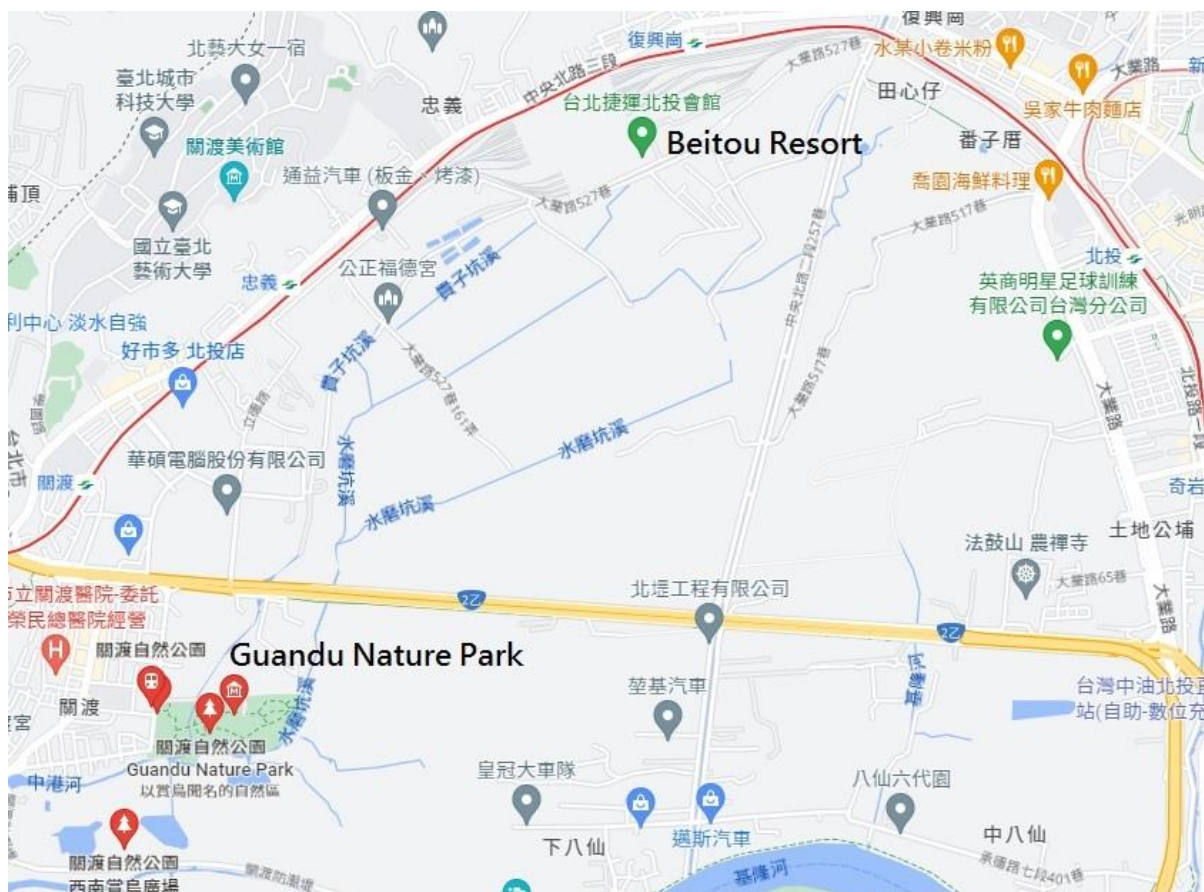
## **Creative Goal**

The format of creation is unrestricted and may include interdisciplinary contemporary art, visual art, installation art, etc. The use of natural materials is preferred for media, and the creative process must comply with environmentally friendly principles. The works created should convey the values of habitat creation and biodiversity, the connections between the ecology, birds, and human interactions surrounding Guandu, and should trigger awareness of ecological conservation. The creative concept and presentation of the works should emphasize their artistic nature.

# Venue

## Guandu Nature Park

Guandu Nature Park started to hold 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, including forest, wetland, grassland, pond and mudflat and so on.



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 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:





## Timetable

Field Study Period	Aug. 9	Artists arrive in Taipei; Hotel check-in
	Aug. 10	Venue Tour · Field study
	Aug. 11	Art Proposal Discussion
	Aug. 12-13	Artists selves field study
Residence Period	Aug. 15 - Sep. 9	Period of installation
	Sep. 10	Opening Art Festival
	Sep. 11	Artists depart
Exhibition Period	Sep. 10-Dec. 31	The artwork exhibition

- ★ Off days: Aug.14 · Aug. 21 · Aug. 28 · Sep. 4
- ★ 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. Artists should be interested in the relationship between nature, human, and environment and committed not to harm the environment during artwork creation.
2. 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.
3. 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.

4. 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 June 30, 2023. 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 and quantity needed.
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 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. **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. We will support multi-destination flight only for work purpose. Artists need to provide official documents (an invitation letter, poster etc.) as proof.
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 Aug 09, 2023 (check-in) to September 11, 2023 (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.** Breakfast will be provided by Metro Inn every day. Lunch will be provided by Guandu Nature Park every working day. 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](mailto:festival@gd-park.org.tw)
2. Phone +886-2-28587417 ext. 230 (Ms. Evonne Yeh)