

Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Experience the beauty of a local wilderness park in the Museum's newest exhibition *The Art of Nature*



Katrina Weber, *Alabama Treasure*, oil on canvas, 30 x 40 in.

The Sanctuary Artists: *The Art of Nature* June 24, 2012-October 7, 2012

Huntsville, AL—The Huntsville Museum of Art is pleased to present *The Art of Nature*, an exhibition that will bring to life Huntsville's Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary as seen through the eyes of area artists, historians, authors, and poets. Opening on **Sunday, June 24**, *The Art of Nature* will provide an opportunity for visitors to see how these individuals respond differently to the experience of being in the same place. In its seventh presentation in Alabama, the exhibit will be on view through October 7.

Although the Sanctuary Artists whose works make up *The Art of Nature* express their ideas in different ways, whether it is using poetry, pottery, paintings, or other mediums, they all have the same vision. Their collaboration is meant to inspire those who view their creations and to raise public awareness and appreciation of the Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary and all natural landscapes.

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“With several different works and interpretations, the display will provide a multi-faceted glimpse into the mystery and beauty of a treasured local nature preserve,” said Peter Baldaia, director of Curatorial Affairs for the museum.

The Goldsmith Schiffman Wildlife Sanctuary is a local wilderness park located near Hampton Cove. Combined with the Hays Nature Preserve, it is Huntsville’s largest and most undeveloped parkland. Within the park, one can enjoy the hiking trails, view wildlife, and absorb the beauty of the forests, fields, and wetlands.

In 2009, Margaret Anne Goldsmith, a naturalist and philanthropist, and Clayton Bass, a local artist who formerly served as the president of the Huntsville Museum of Art, formed the Sanctuary Artists. The purpose of the group was to raise local and regional awareness of the newly developed Sanctuary.

The Sanctuary Artists will host an **Artist Presentation and Opening Reception** for *The Art of Nature* exhibition on **Sunday, June 24**, from **1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** in the Loretta Spencer Hall at the Huntsville Museum of Art. Clayton Bass and Marian Lewis will open with a presentation discussing the Sanctuary and the Sanctuary Artists’ mission. It is **FREE** and open to the public.

“The Museum and the Board are delighted to welcome the Sanctuary Group, and we encourage residents not to miss these works which capture the essence of this special Huntsville park,” said Christopher J. Madkour, Museum executive director.

The Huntsville Museum of Art is closed on Mondays. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended hours on Thursdays until 8 p.m. The Museum is also open Sundays from 1 to 4:00 p.m.

Admission is \$8 for adults; \$7 for military, students, teachers and seniors with a valid ID; and \$4 for children ages 6-11. Admission for children under 6 and Museum members are free.

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2012 Sanctuary Artist Participants [Listed as Name (Role/Art Medium)]

Clayton Bass (Painter, Photographer)

Jerry Brown (Painter)

Drucilla Esslinger (Historian, Archivist)

Dee Burt Holmes (Painter, Printmaker)

Marian Moore Lewis (Naturalist, Photographer)

Maggie Little (Painter)

Larry Long (Historian, Archivist)

Sara McDaris (Author, Storyteller)

Mary Ann Pope (Painter)

Guadalupe Lanning Robinson (Potter)

Jimmy Robinson (Poet)

Jack Rogers (Wood Turner)

Sam Tumminello (Printmaker, Photographer)

Katrina Weber (Painter)