

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2021

DENVER BOTANIC
GARDENS

PRESS CONTACT

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OF SKY AND GROUND: YOSHIMOTO SAITO

July 24 – November 28, 2021



Yoshitomo Saito's cast bronze works capture and celebrate the sweeping lines and subtle details of nature. From small seed pods to the arch of a branch, his compositions reinterpret organic forms in *Of Sky and Ground: Yoshitomo Saito*, on view in the Freyer – Newman Center's Kemper Family Gallery July 24 – November 28, 2021. The exhibition, organized in partnership with William Havu Gallery (Denver), features large-scale works and a multi-object installation, *Millionyearseeds* (2011 – 2021), that features more than 1,000 bronze castings of natural objects including pinecones and banana peels. Access to the exhibition is included with general admission.

Additional works in *Of Sky and Ground* include *Cheikh Lo* (2020) and *Gateway* (2019), large-scale sculptures combining abstracted circular forms with the textures and shapes of branches. *Million Year Drone* (2021), a large sculpture exploring the delicate yet utilitarian design of dragonfly wings, was created specifically for this exhibition.

The Denver-based artist's dedication to craftsmanship is evident in each work as a tribute to the beauty found in the environment. Two of Saito's sculptures were included in the Gardens' 2013 exhibition *Catalyst: Colorado Sculpture*.

About the artist: Born in Tokyo, Japan, in 1958, Saito studied at the Penland School of Crafts in North Carolina and later earned an MFA in sculpture from the California College of the Arts in Oakland, California. His sculpture can be found in many prestigious collections, including the Asian Art Museum, de Young Museum, and the Oakland Museum of California.

Images: (Left) Yoshitomo Saito, *Cheikh Lo*, bronze, 2020. (Middle) Yoshitomo Saito, *Millionyearseeds*, bronze, 2021. (Right) Yoshitomo Saito, *Gateway*, bronze, 2019. © Yoshitomo Saito

Related Programs

TOUR: Of Sky and Ground -- Art & Garden

July 30 and September 3, 5:30 p.m.

August 5, September 23, October 14 and November 25, 9:15 a.m.

October 1 and November 12, 3 p.m.

\$19, \$15 member (includes admission)

Join a docent on an indoor-outdoor exploration of Yoshitomo Saito's exhibition *Of Sky and Ground* and the Shofu-en Japanese Garden.

ARTIST TALK: Yoshimoto Saito

August 5, 6 p.m. MDT

Join artist Yoshitomo Saito for a discussion of his artwork featured in *Of Sky and Ground*. Learn more about the artist and his methods as he discusses the inspirations behind his bronze forms.

- **In-Person**
\$15, Free for members
- **Online (live recording of in-person event)**
\$10, Free for members

TOUR: 松風園 Shofu-en Japanese Garden

September 8 and October 6, 10 a.m.

\$19, \$15 member (includes admission)

Meander through Japanese Garden with Ebi Akiyoshi Kondo, associate director of horticulture and curator of the Japanese Garden, as your guide.

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About Denver Botanic Gardens: Green inside and out, Denver Botanic Gardens was founded in 1951 and is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, the Gardens has a robust living plant collection, natural history collection and art collection along with temporary art exhibitions. The Gardens is a dynamic, 24-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class exhibitions, education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites extend this experience throughout the Front Range: Denver Botanic Gardens Chatfield Farms is a 700-acre native plant refuge with an active farm in Jefferson County; Mount Goliath is a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.