

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 16, 2023



PRESS CONTACTS

Erin Bird: 720-865-3552, erin.bird@botanicgardens.org

Land Line: Artist Residency Program 2023 Artists

Denver Botanic Gardens' artist residency program, [Land Line](#) is dedicated to supporting artists who foster appreciation, understanding and stewardship of the natural world. This year, five artists of varying media will create new bodies of work, inspired by visits to the Gardens and interactions with staff. The creatives have access to the Gardens' collections (living plants, natural history, art, books), scientists, curators and multiple sites including Denver's York Street and Chatfield Farms locations.

Land Line's flexible format allows artists to maintain other professional pursuits while being supported by the residency. The program is open to creatives working in a variety of disciplines and media. Botanical illustrators are included within this program and work with the School of Botanical Art & Illustration and the Research & Conservation team. The Gardens seeks to support and strengthen diverse perspectives—those who identify as part of an historically marginalized group are encouraged to apply. The 2024 call for applicants will open in Fall 2023.



Kiki Gaffney explores the intersections between the natural world and urban landscapes through illustration and painting, translating the detailed forms of fallen trees, rock formations and natural detritus into geometric designs. During her residency, Gaffney will explore the beauty of the Gardens' natural and constructed environments. The Philadelphia-based visual artist received a bachelor's

degree from Loyola College and a master's degree from the University of the Arts, Pennsylvania. She is represented by Pentimenti Gallery, Modern West Fine Art and K. Imperial Fine Art. Her works are held in numerous public and private collections throughout the United States.

Image credit: Kiki Gaffney, *Birch—Two Views*, graphite, acrylic, glitter and gold leaf, 2022.



Yojiro Imasaka uses the historical wet collodion photographic process to produce photos of landscapes from glass negatives, creating images that are soft, dream-like and filled with light. During his residency, Imasaka seeks to create works that reflect on the vulnerability of nature while imagining a sustainable future. Imasaka was born in Hiroshima, Japan and relocated to the United States in 2007. He currently lives

and works in Brooklyn, New York. He received a Bachelor of Fine Arts in photography from Nihon University College of Art in Tokyo and a Master of Fine Arts from the Pratt Institute, New York. His photographs have been exhibited at the Minneapolis Institute of Art and the Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, and his works are in the collections of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

Image credit: Yojiro Imasaka, *Wet-Land #71*, toned gelatin silver print, 2021.



Aisha Imdad will explore how cultivated gardens connect humans to the natural world across time and culture during her residency. Based in Texas, Imdad uses watercolor and gouache to create paintings exploring the myths, folktales and history of South Asia. She was the Chairperson and Head of the Department of Art and Design at COMSATS

University, Islamabad, Pakistan. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and a Master of Visual Art from the National College of Arts, Lahore, Pakistan, and her works have been exhibited throughout Pakistan and the United States.

Image credit: Aisha Imdad, *The Gilded Gardens of Fidelity: Bagh-i-Wafa series II*, watercolor, 2022.



Cherish Marquez creates imaginary worlds that bridge her upbringing in the desert landscape and her interest in emergent technology. By combining interactive animation and game design with objects made from desert plants, her work explores the cultural significance of the desert to the Latinx community. Marquez is a Latina and Queer-identifying artist who grew up in Sierra Blanca, Texas and currently lives and works in Denver. She holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts and Creative

Writing from New Mexico State University and a master's degree in emergent digital practices from the University of Denver. She has exhibited at the Denver Art Museum and Museo De Las Americas, Denver, among others, and is a current Resident Artist at the RedLine Contemporary Art Center.

Image credit: Cherish Marquez, *I'm Here with Others*, interactive animation with fabric controller, 2022.



Marcia Stuermer uses botanical materials within cast resin to juxtapose the beauty of the natural world with the damaging systems of consumption. Often featuring barcode-like striping that divides segments of plant matter, her works explore the fragile line between our natural habitat and its exploitation. Stuermer is a mixed-media artist based in San Francisco, California. Originally from

Ohio, she studied at the Cooper Union School of Art, the Cleveland Institute of Art and the Kansas City Art Institute where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture and drawing. Stuermer's work has been exhibited at the 2017 Design Pavilion, New York, the Triton Museum of Art and the Verum Ultimum Gallery, among others. Her work is held in collections throughout the United States.

Image credit: Marcia Stuermer, *Mini Mutant Botanic Carbon Footprint Barcodes*, resin, thermo-formed paper, flora, rice and charred wood, 2022.

###

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.