

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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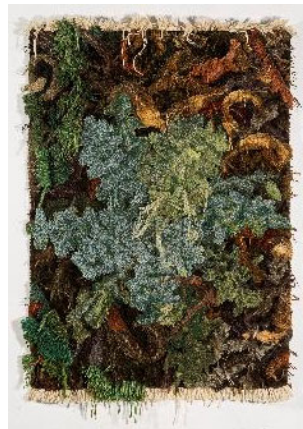
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**River's Voice: Textiles by Alexandra Kehayoglou**

April 14 – December 8, 2024



Alexandra Kehayoglou's large-scale carpet works highlight Argentina's Paraná de las Palmas River and the surrounding wetlands—rich in natural beauty and home to millions of organisms, but threatened by agricultural expansion and development. **River's Voice: Textiles by Alexandra Kehayoglou** is on view in Denver Botanic Gardens' Freyer – Newman Center April 14 – December 8, 2024 and is included with general admission.

The scale of the 12 works in *River's Voice* varies from one monumental work that is nearly 40 feet high and 14 feet wide to smaller works that are around three feet by five feet. The centerpiece of the exhibition, *Paraná de las Palmas River*, was recently on display at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and extends across the gallery floor. Visitors are invited to remove their shoes and walk on the work.

Kehayoglou and her family moved to an island in the wetlands surrounding Argentina's Paraná de las Palmas River in 2018. She felt a strong connection with the landscape and thinks of her art as a way to introduce people to the magic and beauty of this endangered place, offering hope for its renewal and a flourishing ecological future.

The compositions are created from drawings, drone photography, videos and memories. Kehayoglou uses a handheld tufting gun and leftover wool materials from her family's carpet factory in Argentina to construct the works. Since she uses secondhand materials, she doesn't always have a color match for the featured plant and landscapes, so she creates color in an impressionistic way, using different colors of yarn. Once the carpet is woven, she uses scissors to trim and sculpt shapes and texture to create a dimensional environment.

**About the Artist**

Alexandra Kehayoglou is an Argentinean artist who splits her time between Buenos Aires, Argentina and Athens, Greece. She is primarily interested in bringing together art and craft as a call for environmental awareness and action. Her work has been exhibited throughout the world including a 2014 collaboration with fashion designer Dries Van Noten in which she created a 164-foot-long carpet that was used as a

runway at Paris Fashion Week. She has also been included in Design Miami/Basel (2016), Antigone Now festival, New York (2016), The Triennial of The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (2017) and exhibitions around the world. She won the Konex Award from Argentina in 2022.

### **Related Programs**

#### **Artist Talk: Alexandra Kehayoglou**

Wednesday, May 1, 6-7 p.m.

\$15, \$10 member

Alexandra Kehayoglou will share the process she uses to create her carpet works depicting the Paraná de las Palmas River in Argentina and why this wetlands area is so important. The galleries are open until 8 p.m. to explore before or after the talk.

#### **Art at the Gardens Tour**

Select days, dates and times

\$16, \$8 member, \$5 student

Denver Botanic Gardens is a premier venue for art exhibitions, highlighting sculpture, botanical illustration, painting, photography, site-specific installations and more. Walk through the galleries with a knowledgeable guide to learn more about the artists' work, practice and inspiration.

#### **Curator Conversations**

Friday, May 17, 10 a.m.

\$20, \$10 member, \$5 student

Join us for a stroll through our state-of-the-art Freyer – Newman Center galleries with a curatorial staff member. Explore our diverse art exhibitions, which support Denver Botanic Gardens' mission to connect people with plants, and learn about the artists, artworks and processes during an engaging, interactive experience.

**Images:** (L): Alexandra Kehayoglou, *Paraná de las Palmas River*, hand-tufted textile wool, 2021. From *The Abrasive Paradise* at Kunsthal KAdE. Photo by Alexandra Kehayoglou Studio. (R) Alexandra Kehayoglou, *Thistle*, textile wool, 2020. Photo by Alexandra Kehayoglou Studio.

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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 art exhibitions and education programs in the Freyer – Newman Center; plant conservation efforts and horticultural research. 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 Blue Sky Scenic Byway. The Gardens also manages programming at Plains Conservation Center in Aurora. For more information, visit us online at [www.botanicgardens.org](http://www.botanicgardens.org).