

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS CONTACTS

Erin Bird

O: 720-865-3552

erin.bird@botanicgardens.org

Language Without Words: Works by Ash Eliza Williams

December 22, 2024 – May 4, 2025



Ash Eliza Williams' work re-considers the natural world through the eyes of its non-human inhabitants such as rocks, fish, birds and trees. *Language Without Words: Works by Ash Eliza Williams* features 39 works, most new from the *Communication Attempts* series, in which paintings are paired with small sculptures. The exhibition invites viewers to explore how living things communicate and understand one another and is on view December 22, 2024 – May 4, 2025. It is included with Gardens' admission.

The *Communication Attempts* series is inspired in part by natural history museum displays. Williams is interested in how nature and objects are organized and categorized, and how they might speak to each other when placed in proximity. Williams begins their work with loose conceptual sketches, then renders the sketches in painting and sculpture. They work primarily in oil paint, but also use various materials including gouache paint, acrylic paint, clay, wire and wool.

One piece, *Alphabet of Stones (Lithic Language)*, references the history of biodiversity and the historical information encoded in rock strata and will have a hands-on component.

Williams' work is rooted in scientific study and keen observation of the natural world and they often work with scientists, including at the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Boston, and McDonald Observatory in West Texas.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Ash Eliza Williams is currently based in Massachusetts, but previously lived in Denver and is a former RedLine Contemporary Art Center Artist in Residence. Williams has exhibited nationally, including at the

New York Hall of Science; Smith College Jannotta Gallery, Massachusetts; University of Massachusetts Amherst Architecture and Design Gallery; Edward J and Helen Jane Morrison Gallery, University of Minnesota; Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver; the University of Denver; Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design; the University of Colorado Art Museum and the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder. They are represented by K Contemporary in Denver.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Artist Talk

Thursday, January 23, 2025, 6:30 p.m

Hear from artist Ash Eliza Williams about their creative process, inspiration and the work in the Gardens' exhibition.

Art at the Gardens Tour

Select days, dates and times

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

Walk through the galleries with a guide who shares stories about the work on display.

Curator Conversations Tour

Select days, dates and times

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

Stroll through current art exhibitions in the Freyer - Newman Center galleries with a curatorial staff member. Explore our diverse art exhibitions, which support Denver Botanic Gardens' mission to connect people to plants, and learn about the artists, artworks and processes during an engaging, interactive conversation.

Images: Left: Ash Eliza Williams, *Storm and Puddle*, oil paint and clay, 2024. Right: Ash Eliza Williams, *Dreams of an Orange Fruit Dove*, oil paint, 2023.

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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 Mount 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.