



**LAGUNA ART MUSEUM**

## CALL FOR ARTISTS: 12TH ANNUAL ART + NATURE IN 2024

Laguna Art Museum invites visionary artists to participate in the 12th Annual Art + Nature slated for November 2024. This dynamic program encompasses a multifaceted celebration that converges outdoor installations, performances, exhibitions, workshops and leading thinkers at the intersection of creativity and the environment.

For over a decade, the museum has sought proposals from artists for outdoor works to be displayed in Laguna Beach's public spaces surrounding the museum for approximately four consecutive days during the first week of November. Reflecting on previous years, notable artists have contributed remarkable projects, transforming these spaces into evocative experiences.

The museum seeks **Letters of Interest** from artists, including their biography/CV, examples of previous work and an artist's statement explaining how their work aligns with the ethos of Art + Nature. **Letters of Interest must be received by LAM no later than Tuesday, February 23, 2024.** Artists can submit their proposals to Victoria Gerard at [VGerard@lagunaartmuseum.org](mailto:VGerard@lagunaartmuseum.org). **Selected artists will advance to the Request for Proposal (RFP) stage.**

Submissions during the RFP stage will undergo review by the museum's panel based on concept merit and feasibility. Laguna Art Museum's expectations for the commissioned artist include the completion of a finalized installation and logistics plan. The museum requires the artist's presence at the museum for installation, participation in related programming, availability for press inquiries, etc. Monthly meetings will be scheduled to discuss progress and updates.

### **More About Art & Nature**

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In its annual Art & Nature festival, Laguna Art Museum presents special exhibitions, a commissioned outdoor work of art, lectures, panel discussions, films, and family activities on the theme of art's engagement with the natural world.

The event serves a number of purposes: to provide a festival of art and ideas for the community; to inspire artists; to find and develop connections between art and science; to raise awareness of environmental issues; and to celebrate Laguna Beach as a center for the appreciation of art and nature.

The theme of Art & Nature speaks particularly to the identity of Laguna Beach, which for over a hundred years has fostered art, the love of nature, and environmental awareness. In 1929, when the Laguna Beach Art Association built a gallery to show and sell their work, they chose a commanding



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location on the coastline, close to the natural wonders they loved to paint. The present museum occupies the same site. There could be no more appropriate venue in which to explore the art-nature connection.

Art & Nature seeks to bring people to Laguna Beach, and to the Laguna Art Museum, to interact with art in non-traditional space and to experience art in new ways.

### Past Outdoor Installations

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#### **2013 Artist: Jim Denevan**

Just steps from Laguna Art Museum, artist Jim Denevan transformed Main Beach into a monumental Land Art piece. Using only a stick and rakes and working with the tide, Denevan created a spectacular temporary geometrical drawing that spanned the entire beach. With the help of Laguna Beach High School students, he traced the completed drawing with solar lanterns, making the design light up after dark.



Keynote Lecture with Kevin Starr: "Art, Nature, and the American Landscape: Pioneer Pathways Towards Defining California"

#### **2014 Artist: Lita Albuquerque: *An Elongated Now***



A performance piece involving hundreds of volunteer performers dressed in white, *An Elongated Now* took place on Main Beach and was visible from various vantage points on the beach and along the cliffs. The performers formed an arc close to the water's edge and focused their attention on the setting sun. The performance ended with each volunteer holding a blue light, forming a glowing blue arc as darkness fell.

Keynote Lecture with Terry Gifford: "John Muir: Transatlantic Influence"



**2015 Artist: Laddie John Dill: *Electric Light Blanket***

A spectacular laser light piece that took place after sunset on Main Beach, viewable from various vantage points on the beach and along the cliffs.

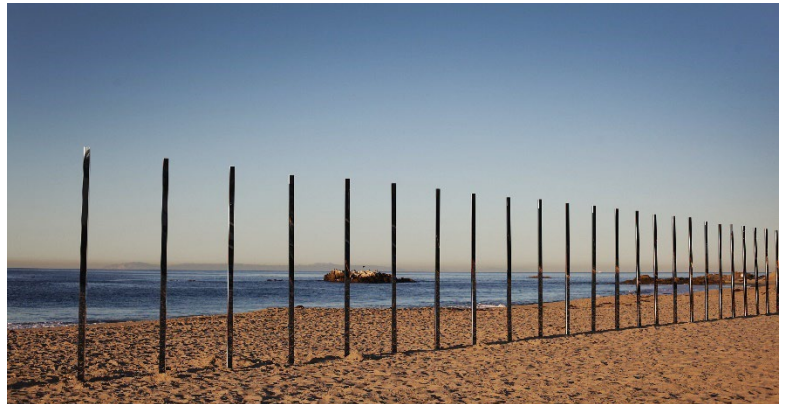
Keynote Lecture with Dr. Roger Malina



**2016 Artist: Phillip K. Smith III: *¼ Mile Arc***

A spectacular site-specific installation that highlighted Smith's exploration of perception, light, geometry, and time. Stretching along much of Main Beach, the arc formed a visible marker between the man-made and natural worlds, and reflected the changing colors of the ocean, sky, and shoreline throughout the day and night.

Keynote Lecture with Martin Kemp:  
"Structural Intuitions: Seeing Shapes in Art and Science."



**2017 Artist: Pablo Vargas Lugo: *Seascape***



For the fifth edition of the Art & Nature festival, Mexican artist Pablo Vargas Lugo chose to bring Art & Nature into the waters of the Pacific Ocean. The piece would have floated in the waters off main beach, casting a light on a small section of the ocean, "as a seascape under observation and reminding viewers of the shifting conditions under which development and our future are taking form." Unfortunately, due to environmental concerns, this project was unable to come to fruition.

Keynote Lecture with William Deverell: "Missions to Murals"





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### 2018 Artist: Elizabeth Turk: Shoreline Project

This California artist brought together 1,000 volunteer performers for this site-specific performance. The performers converged at sunset on the shoreline in both spontaneous and choreographed movement, wielding LED-illuminated umbrellas designed as an evolution of the artist's Seashell X-ray Mandala series.

Keynote Lecture with Jane Munro:  
"Charles Darwin: Art, Nature, and Beauty"



### 2019 Artist: Yorgo Alexopoulos: 360° Azimuth

Commissioned by the museum, this large-scale video installation featured a two-channel video

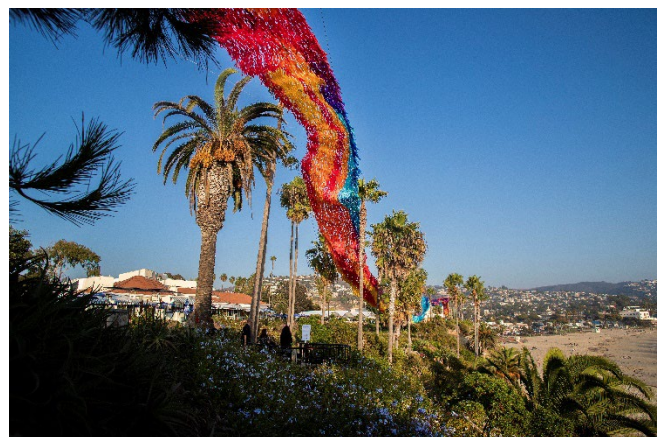


projection with sound in which landscapes became metaphoric "characters" in an animistic meta-narrative where reality and constructs of our collective subconscious seemed to co-exist peacefully. The installation remained on view in the museum's Stelle Gallery through January

Keynote Lecture with Alan Braddock: "From Nature to Ecology: The Emergence of Ecocritical Art History"

### 2020 Artist: Patrick Shearn: Sunset Trace

This site-specific, multicolored, kinetic installation off Main Beach and over Heisler Park weaved through the palm trees along the shoreline and traversed sections of the walkways and cliffs between the gazebo and Main Beach. It was on view through 10 days and was inspired by the graceful murmuration of birds flocking together, or schools of fish coalescing and moving simultaneously.



Keynote Lecture with Dan Goods



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**2021 Artist: Rebeca Méndez: *Any-Instant-Whatever***

A multimedia experience, Méndez's work was on display in the museum's Steele gallery for several months. The exhibition depicts a contemplation of a day in Los Angeles that captures a cloud-rich sky above the lively city and its inhabitants. A sound piece composed by Drew Schnurr accompanied the exhibition, derived entirely from resonating crystal receptacles tuned by water.



Keynote Lecture with Daniel Lewis: "John James Audubon: Art, Nature, and Science in the Nineteenth Century"

**2022 Artist: Rebeca Méndez: *The Sea Around Us***



Creating an immersive 360-degree video art installation, Rebeca Méndez's *The Sea Around Us* transported viewers to an area of the Pacific Ocean located 30 miles from the Laguna Beach Coast, portraying the ocean as a fully animated body as well as a place of deep interconnectedness for all living things. Using scientific footage, the video shifts to thousands of oozing barrels of DDT on the seafloor being sampled by robotic arms. This hidden ecological calamity is revealed in conjunction with imagery that inspires awe and strengthens the bond between sea and viewer, inspiring the

courage to face environmental wrongdoing, to take restorative action, and to avoid repeating transgressions against our natural resources.



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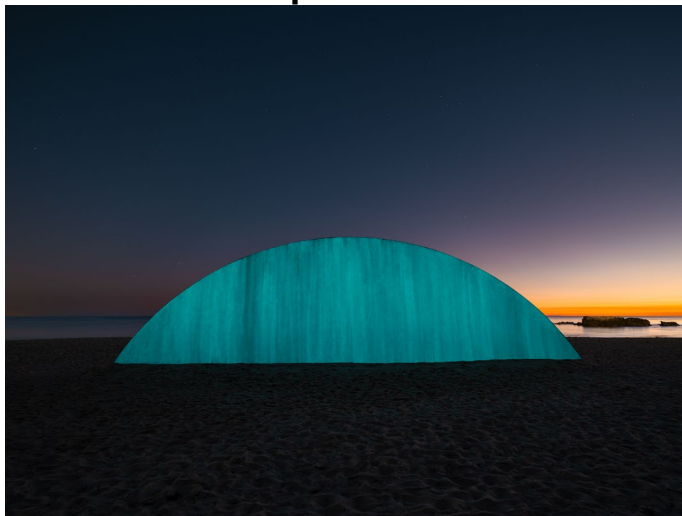
### **2022 Outdoor Installation by Kelly Berg: *Pyramidion***

*Pyramidion* was an interactive sculptural experience inviting contemplation of the layered history and unique geology of Laguna Beach. Beginning at the museum, participants journeyed to several sites through the local Heisler Park and Main Beach, encountering seven pyramids of various sizes and colors that reflected the ever-shifting nature of the landscape. The temporality of the installation paralleled much of the earth's landscapes that shift and change due to weather, geology, and the effects of climate change.



Keynote Lecture with Dr. Sylvia Earle

### **2023 Artist: Cristopher Cichocki**



*Rising Inversion* harnesses oceanic and planetary elements engaging in direct dialogue with the surrounding natural landscape of Laguna Beach. From dawn to dusk, this transformative installation morphs from a sprawling arc of sand and barnacles into a luminescent orb rising over the Pacific shoreline. This synergy encircled within the elements of water and light illuminated throughout the night in a phosphorescent glow powered from the residual energy of the sun.

Keynote Lecture with Lyanda Lynn Haupt

### **2023 Indoor Exhibitions**

*Escape-Route* Luciana Abait

*Burghers of Cali: A Ballad of Redwood Spirits* Andre Woodward