

Call for Submissions

Garden Follies: A Selection of Works by the Barrie Art Club

Members of the Barrie Art Club are invited to submit works of art to be featured in an upcoming themed exhibition at the MacLaren Art Centre, titled **Garden Follies**. The work of up to ten artists will be selected for display in the exhibition from June 16 to October 22 in the Carnegie Room.

About the Theme - Garden Follies:

In response to our summer exhibition *Petrichor*, this thematic exhibition will take the architectural structure of the Garden Folly to extend discussions around how humans have attempted to control, order, and shape the natural world.

Garden Follies are architectural structures built into the landscape devoid of a practical purpose. At the height of their popularity in Europe in the 1700s and 1800s, the true function of these structures was symbolic - referencing a landowner's wealth, importance, and historical control over the land. The name folly – meaning lack of good sense – references the structures lack of practical function in favor of grabbing attention with their decadent ornamentation and propensity for constructing false histories. For example, garden follies were commonly built to resemble ancient ruins, giving an artificial impression of longstanding human control over the environment. While the garden folly is interested in inscribing human control over the land, common artistic approaches to representing the landscape tends to do the opposite – erasing human presence and attempting to eliminate the enduring tensions between humans and their attempts to control the natural world.

Artists are invited to take the garden folly as a source of inspiration and submit artworks that represent their unique interpretation of the theme. While garden follies may be useful starting point to think about gardens, landscape, architecture, and horticultural practices, these whimsical structures also serve as a starting point to encourage artists to think about how humans intervene in natural space, the impacts that we have had on the natural world, and in the face of changing landscapes and changing climates, where we go next. What might it look like to move away from the folly and cultivate a relationship with the earth that is not based on either human domination or human erasure, but rather a relationship that recognizes humans as equal contributors in a vast ecosystem? Or in the words of Robin Wall Kimmerer (Potawatomi Nation), to recognize that “all flourishing is mutual.”

Submission Guidelines and Eligibility Requirements:

1. Submissions will only be accepted from members of the Barrie Art Club. See <https://barrieartclub.wildapricot.org/> for information about becoming a member.
2. Artworks must be submitted via the digital submission portal by 11:59pm on May 1.
3. Artists can submit up to 12 artworks of any size, provided they will fit comfortably on the walls of The Carnegie Room. See Appendix A for a floorplan of the space.
4. All submissions must include an image file (Accepted file types: jpeg or jpg. Max file size: 4 MB/image) of each artwork and the following information: *Artwork title, Date, Materials, Dimensions*.
5. All artworks must be submitted with an artist statement of 250 words or less that describes how the artwork is related to the theme of *Garden Follies*.
6. Submitted artworks can be of any medium, however, all artworks must be 2D and able to be affixed to the wall with a low profile. The Carnegie Room is a multi-purpose room that hosts many events. As such, sculptures, installations, projections, or artworks that extend more than 15cm from the wall will not be accepted.
7. Artworks must have been produced in 2018 or later. *Preference will be given to new works produced specifically for this exhibition with the theme in mind.* Artists are encouraged to submit multiple artworks in a series.
8. Artworks cannot have been displayed in Simcoe County in the last two years.
9. All artworks must be appropriate for display for all ages and during weddings. Artworks may be rejected if they are not deemed acceptable for display in the context of our event space.
10. All artworks must be exhibition ready (including all hanging hardware or necessary equipment for presentation)

If you have any questions about the submission guidelines, please contact Rachel@maclarencentre.com

Community Information Session:

Learn more about the exhibition and the artwork submission process at our community information session from **10:30 – 11:30 am on Saturday March 11 at the Barrie Art Club, 11 King St., Unit 8.**

Unsure about submitting your work? Join us for a short presentation and Q&A about the exhibition. We will discuss the exhibition theme, submission guidelines, and the curatorial process – including artist selection criteria. Detailed notes from the presentation will be made available online for those who cannot attend.

Artist Selection and Notification of Acceptance:

Artworks will be selected in two rounds. During the first round, all members of the Barrie Art Club are invited to submit artworks that adhere to the submission guidelines via the online submission portal by May 1, 2023. All submissions will be reviewed by the curatorial team at the MacLaren Art Centre, and a short list of artists will be invited to participate in the second round of submissions. All selected artists will be contacted via email by May 15, 2023.

To participate in the second round, selected artists must drop off the requested artworks to the MacLaren Art Centre by May 22, 2023. All artworks will be reviewed in-person and up to ten artists will be selected by the curatorial team to have their works displayed in the exhibition. Selected artists will be contacted via email by May 29, 2023 and will be required to sign and return an exhibition contract to confirm their participation in the show. Artists who are not accepted will be contacted via email with details regarding artwork pick up.

In both rounds, selections will be made based on:

- Relevance to the theme
- Coherence with sub-themes that emerge within the submission pool
- Quality of the work
- Clarity of the artist statement

The final artists selected for the exhibition will be paid a CARFAC Exhibition Fee (Category III). The CARFAC Minimum Recommended Fee Schedule provides guidelines on what visual and media artists should be paid for their copyright and other professional services.

Exhibition Timeline:

Community Q&A: March 11 – 10:30 – 11:30am at the Barrie Art Club

Online Submission Deadline: May 1

Notification of Acceptance (Round 1): May 15

Artist's Selected in Round One Artwork Drop-off to the MacLaren: May 22

Notification of Acceptance (Round 2): May 29 - will include contracts and requests for additional information/texts.

Exhibition Install: May 29

Exhibition Opening: June 16

Exhibition Closes: Oct 22

Artwork Pickup: Oct 23 – 28

** Please note that the submission guidelines and exhibition timeline are subject to change. Please check our website, maclarenart.com for the most up to date information.

Appendix A:

