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New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill introduces stunning new land art exhibit

(May 24, 2022) BOYLSTON – New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is pleased to announce a major new land art installation, *UPROOTED*, which opened April 23.

Created by artist and landscape architect W. Gary Smith, *UPROOTED* features four large mixed media paintings on display in the Milton Gallery and eleven large-scale, immersive, land art installations inspired by and set among the landscape of New England Botanic Garden made from branches, twigs, rocks, grasses, and other natural materials collected on-site.

Smith's mission is to connect people with nature in innovative and unconventional ways. *UPROOTED* reflects this mission with artworks uniquely made to celebrate the land they inhabit. "The temporary nature of environmental installation art gives me license to connect freely and creatively to a particular sense of place," says Smith, "without the restrictions of figuring out how to make a place that will last for years and years."

For example, one of the installations, *The Serpent*, embodies the curving pattern often found in nature, flowing and bending around the meadow like the track created by a slithering serpent. This piece was created by mowing the outline of its shape while allowing the meadow plants within the "serpent" to grow over time.

In *Horizontal Nests*, multiple "nests" made of twigs and branches wrapped around trunks of trees are oriented in a straight line along the Loop Trail and the Shade Garden. With each piece occupying the same elevation, *Horizontal Nests* dramatizes the topography of the forest floor. Visitors' experience of this piece change as their point of view shifts while they move through the trees.

Complementing the sculptures is a series of four large-scale paintings, created on raw canvas, that celebrate the natural shapes, and patterns residing in the world that lives beneath our feet and surrounds the roots that support the land.

UPROOTED will run through November 1, 2022, featuring 11 immersive land art installations scattered throughout the landscape as well as four large mixed media paintings in the Milton Gallery. A variety of activities—including a feature weekend, drop-in experiences, and guided tours—are offered.

Smith's garden work has focused almost entirely on public botanical gardens. His temporary installations have been installed in many public gardens, including the Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Filoli Historic House & Garden, and more locally, the Native Plant Trust's Garden in the Woods. Prior to creating this new exhibit, he designed a new children's garden, The Ramble, at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. "*UPROOTED* has been an opportunity to explore the Garden in a totally different way," Smith said.

Visit <https://nebg.org/uprooted/> for more information.

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About New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill

New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill is a nonprofit organization located at 11 French Drive in Boylston, Massachusetts. A regional destination, we are operated on 171 acres by the Worcester County Horticultural Society, one of the oldest of its kind in the country, and are open to the public for garden viewing, trail walking, activities, private events, educational classes, weddings, exhibitions, and more. We are an [AAM-accredited](#) museum that includes an irreplaceable collection of plants. We hope to engage you in our life-long passion for growing plants for their ornamental, economic, and ecological value. Learn all about New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill including its history, mission, and its staff, please visit www.nebg.org.