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New England
Botanic Garden
AT TOWER HILL

Fairy Houses at New England Botanic Garden Set to Capture Nature's Magic: *Enchanted Forest* Opens September 10

(August 4, 2022) BOYLSTON – [New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill](#) is excited to announce the opening of a magical new exhibit sure to transport Garden visitors into the world of the fairies. [Enchanted Forest: Nature-Inspired Fairy Houses by Sally J. Smith](#) will be on view from September 10 through October 30, 2022. Featuring a fabulous display of intricately designed, nature-inspired fairy houses, this immersive exhibit will welcome visitors of all ages to explore the wonder of the natural world as the seasons change.

Fairy houses, miniature dwellings typically built using found natural materials like bark, acorns, pinecones, stones, moss, and flowers, are meant to invite elusive fairy visitors, or simply add fun and playfulness to a home or garden. Smith's highly artistic fairy houses, adorned with balconies, porches, eaves, tiled roofs, and even highly detailed windows that appear paned with colorful glass, are made largely from materials found in the forest near her home in New York's Adirondack Mountain region. In recent decades, creating fairy houses has captured public imagination as a way to appreciate the beauty and nuance of nature.

"We all like to be surprised by something," Smith says. "I enjoy challenging the viewer to realize these houses are made with birch bark and twigs, and that all of this comes from nature, with a few exceptions."

Enchanted Forest will transform The Ramble, a 1.5 acre accessible, whimsical woodland garden for children and families that New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill opened in April. Four child-sized fairy houses topped with living roofs and several larger-than-life illuminated mushrooms will complement the exhibit. Each of Smith's fairy houses will also be lit from within. Guests can enjoy this immersive display during the Garden's daytime hours or at a series of special evening events scheduled on Fridays from September 30 to October 28. Known as *Fairies Aglow*, these family-friendly events will feature dazzling light displays, ethereal music, and a variety of enchanted activities that encourage guests to explore the wonders of the season.

“*Enchanted Forest* celebrates nature. It encourages us to pay attention to the wonders happening around us and to let these carry our imaginations to new places,” says Grace Elton, CEO of New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill. “This exhibit couldn’t be better suited for our newest garden, The Ramble, a space designed to spark curiosity.”

“What I hope my work does for people is connect them to nature and inspire them to have their own exploration with nature in some way,” Smith says about her vision for *Enchanted Forest*.

The daughter of an architect/nature photographer and garden-lover, Smith discovered inspiration in nature at young age. Her upbringing in a rural Vermont town on Lake Champlain influenced her creative path. For over 22 years, Smith worked as a professional watercolor artist. For the past 15 years Smith has focused primarily on sculpture informed by the natural world. Her contemporary work includes ephemeral land-art and photography, in addition to fairy house creations. She shares her technical skill and design knowledge in an instructional book, *Fairy Houses: How to Create Whimsical Homes for Fairy Folk*, published by Cool Springs Press, an imprint of Quarto Publishing.

To learn more about Sally J. Smith and her fairy houses visit <https://sallysmithart.com/greenspirit-arts/faerie-houses/>. For information on *Enchanted Forest*, *Fairies Aglow*, and other magical experiences coming up this fall at New England Botanic Garden at Tower Hill visit <https://nebg.org/enchanted-forest> or contact Liz Nye at lnye@nebg.org.

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Photo Credit: Fairy house and photography by artist Sally J. Smith.

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 a 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.