

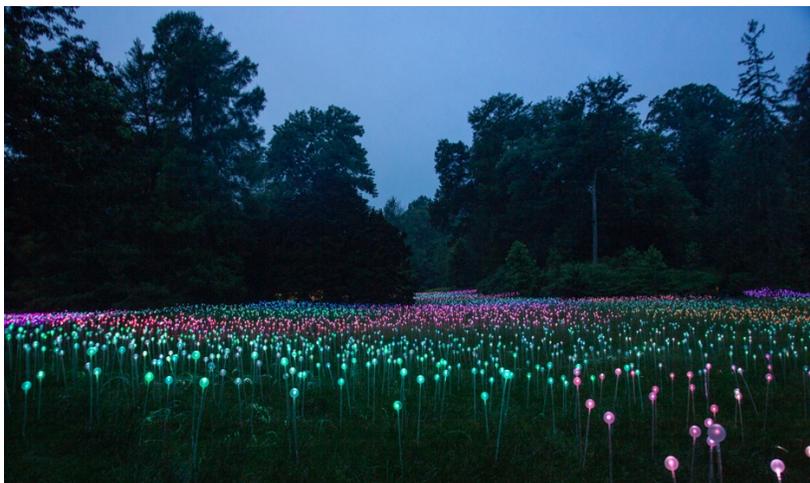


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CHEEKWOOD ANNOUNCES RETURN OF BRUCE MUNRO LIGHT, OPENING MAY 2023

The internationally known artist will illuminate the
55-acre botanical garden and art museum with 10th anniversary celebration



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The luminous light installations featuring the work of renowned British artist Bruce Munro will return to [Cheekwood Estate & Gardens](#) after 10 years with the opening of **LIGHT: Bruce Munro at Cheekwood**, on display May 4 – Oct. 27, 2023. Munro first presented his award-winning outdoor art exhibition for only the second time in North America at the 55-acre botanical garden and art museum in 2013. Cheekwood is honored to again host the exhibition for a special 10th anniversary celebration, which will feature 10 immersive, grand-scale light productions that will be displayed throughout Cheekwood’s beautiful vistas, manicured gardens, sculpture trail and in the Historic Mansion & Museum and Frist Learning Center. Two-dimensional works of art will be displayed throughout the Museum’s galleries. The 2023 exhibition is made possible by the Ann & Monroe Carell Foundation (Kathryn & David Brown, Edie & David Johnson and Julie Carell Stadler) with corporate presenters First Horizon Bank and Gullett Sanford Robinson & Martin PLLC (GSRM Law); Hospitality Partner, Nashville Convention and Visitors Corp; as well as individual underwriters and patrons.

As a campus-wide intervention highlighting significant advancements in illuminative technology, LIGHT has been expanded in scope and scale for 2023. It is designed to respond to and enhance the outdoor garden and indoor gallery experiences, encouraging an awareness of our individual and collective journeys through time and space. At the center of the exhibition’s many installations is the “Forest of Light,” which submerges the viewer with a landscape of 12,750 lighted glass spheres which create an effect that is both natural and ethereal. Munro’s art is inspired by how he has traveled through his life, expressing himself in an infinite variety of ways. In the exhibition, time and place are physical visualizations on how he recalls and reinterprets a lifetime of memories.

“After 10 years, we are excited to welcome back Bruce Munro to Cheekwood for his exhibition of LIGHT,” said Jane MacLeod, president and CEO of Cheekwood. “His extraordinary installations set among Cheekwood’s



incomparably beautiful and historic estate offer an unparalleled experience that is both mesmerizing and delightful.”

The interplay between Munro’s three-dimensional creations and the surrounding environment – at dusk and after dark – heightens the sense of time’s passage, reinforced through works with expressed childhood and literary themes. Whether backlit sea glass or pigment on paper, his two-dimensional works, likewise, comment on life through the “language of light.” LIGHT will portray how Munro has changed and evolved as an individual in the 10 years since his previous exhibition at Cheekwood, as has his relationship with the site, technology and world around him.

A painter by training, Munro’s road toward light installations began in 1985, when he was influenced by his work with an illuminated light display business in Sydney, Australia.

“I’ve kept sketchbook journals for the last 45 years, recording moments and memories of feeling at one with the world. This feeling of being connected to the world in its largest sense, of being part of an essential pattern, became my true subject matter,” said Munro. “I work with light because working with a medium that is so very pure has enabled me to express many of my ideas that filled my head and my sketchbooks. ‘Forest of Light’ is a composition of moments throughout my life that have led me to become the artist I am today.”

Bruce Munro’s LIGHT at Cheekwood will be open on select evenings starting May 4. Tickets will go on sale to Cheekwood members on March 6 and will be available starting March 20 for not-yet members. Visit cheekwood.org to learn more.

About Bruce Munro

British artist Bruce Munro is best known for immersive large-scale light-based installations inspired largely by his interest in shared human experience. Recording ideas and images in sketchbooks has been his practice for over 30 years. By this means he has captured his responses to stimuli such as music, literature, science, and the world around him for reference, reflection, and subject matter. This tendency has been combined with a liking for components and an inventive urge for reuse, coupled with career training in manufacture of light. As a result, Munro produces both monumental temporary experiential artworks as well as intimate story-pieces.

About Cheekwood

With its intact and picturesque vistas, Cheekwood is distinguished as one of the leading Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the 1930s estate, with its 30,000-square-foot Mansion and 55-acres of gardens, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum and art museum with furnished period rooms and galleries devoted to American art from the 18th to mid-20th centuries. The property includes 13 distinct gardens including the Blevins Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children’s Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring outdoor monumental sculpture. Each year, Cheekwood hosts seasonal festivals including Cheekwood in Bloom, Summertime at Cheekwood, Cheekwood Harvest and Holiday LIGHTS. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and nationally as a Level II Arboretum. It is a three-time voted USA Today



Top 10 Botanical Garden and in 2021 was recognized by Fodor's as one of the 12 Most Beautiful Gardens in the American South. Cheekwood is located eight miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended days and hours of operation depending on the season. Check [cheekwood.org](https://www.cheekwood.org) for current hours and to purchase advance tickets required for admission.

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Above image: Bruce Munro, *Forest of Light*, Precedent Image. Copyright © 2022 Bruce Munro. All rights reserved. Photography by Serena Munro #5. Courtesy of Cheekwood Estate & Gardens

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