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WHIMSICAL GIANT TROLLS TO TAKE OVER CHEEKWOOD SUMMER 2024

International traveling exhibition Trolls: Save the Humans features monumental sculptures made from reclaimed wood



NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The imaginative exhibition *Trolls:* Save the *Humans* from prominent Denmark-based recycle artist Thomas Dambo will be on view at Cheekwood Estate & Gardens from May 2 through Sept. 1, 2024. Six gigantic sculptural trolls, ranging in size from 16 feet tall to 24 feet long, each made from reclaimed wood will take up residence around the Nashville botanical garden and arboretum's 55 acres to relay messages of stewardship and sustainability to humans, or from the troll's perspective, the "small people" of earth.

"We're excited for guests of Cheekwood to discover and learn from these larger-than-life visitors next summer," said Jane MacLeod, president and CEO of Cheekwood. "Dambo's trolls will feel at home among Cheekwood's gardens, and his example that something discarded can become something beautiful is an important message for people of all ages."

Trolls: Save the Humans is produced by Imagine Exhibitions in collaboration with Dambo. The Cheekwood iteration takes into account Cheekwood's unique gardens, trees and landscape for a one-of-a-kind storytelling experience. Children and adults alike will enjoy imagining each of the six featured trolls' folklore-inspired tales and considering their individual messages to humankind.

Trolls: Save the Humans is the latest chapter in the worldwide sculpture fairytale, written by Dambo one installation at a time. In this installation, six young activist trolls have noticed that humans are disconnected from nature and have started harming the planet. The young trolls set out to help humans learn how to live in harmony with nature. Full of personality, each troll has a name and plays a distinctive role in the tribe, becoming role models for humans. For example, Ronja Redeye, who is the group leader, has a voice like whistling leaves in the wind; when she talks, everything else goes quiet. Another troll, Rosa Sunfinger, places flowers in an improvised flowerpot made from a real car. Watching the flowers grow makes her happy. She has noticed "small people" could use a flower or two.

With a background in music and street art and a master's degree from Kolding Design School, Dambo brings a creative and versatile approach to his multifaceted installations. Dambo is internationally renowned for his troll sculptures, which have been privately commissioned and publicly exhibited around the world. His gentle giants serve to facilitate reconnection to nature and encourage onlookers to take better care of our planet.

Trolls: Save the Humans will be open Tuesday – Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cheekwood members will have exclusive access to purchase tickets first. For exhibition details, membership information and more, visit cheekwood.org.

About Imagine Exhibitions

Atlanta-based world leader in narrative-driven, immersive experiences, Imagine Exhibitions Inc. creates, markets and operates sophisticated, high-quality experiences for gardens, museums, zoos, brands, venues and integrated resorts across the globe. From ideation to operation, Imagine's team of industry pioneers draws upon decades of success in the fields of immersive design, storytelling and entertainment to consistently create and implement memorable and thought-provoking environments. The company's custom experiences deliver focused messaging and serve to increase attendance wherever they are presented. For more information, visit ImagineExhibitions.com.

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 for current hours and to purchase advance tickets required for admission.

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