Art in the Garden Self-Guided Tour

The Art in the Garden self-guided walking tour focuses on the permanent art collection of Mounts Botanical Garden. Learn about the artists and stories behind some of the Garden’s iconic sculptures, explore the way art is incorporated in our landscape design, and discover the behind the scenes of living sculpture.

Location: Front Entry

Koi Fountain

The Koi Fountain was hand carved from green marble in 2014. Carnelian gemstones were ingeniously utilized to mark the eyes of the 20 koi swimming in a seemingly endless circle around the fountain. The Koi Fountain represents the iconic residents of Mounts Botanical welcoming visitors at the main gate.

The Koi Fountain was a generous gift of Robert Eigelberger and the Gentlemen of the Garden.
Educating Sarah
Artist: Robert St. Croix
1998, Bronze

Welcoming you to take a stroll on the grass path of this garden, is a Garden icon, a bronze sculpture entitled Educating Sarah. This sculpture by artist Robert St. Croix was presented as gift to the Garden in 1998 by Joseph Shearouse and family in honor of his late wife, Daphne. Daphne had been a longtime supporter of the Garden as a board member, volunteer, and Master Gardener. She worked to develop children’s programming and was the inspiration for the Treasure Trek map.

Location: The Pines

Bird in a Tree
Artist: Gert Olsen

Gert Olsen’s Bird in a Tree is framed by the saw palmetto of the Pines. Olsen started as a carpenter who made wood carvings in his spare time and fell in love with marble in the 1980s during a trip to Italy’s quarries. He works with the natural texture and color of the stone to create representative sculpture of animals, human forms, and abstract shapes. This Jupiter based artist has strong ties with Mounts Botanical Garden, his wife Shelia is a long time volunteer. Bird in a Tree depicts two different trees: a palm on the front and a deciduous tree on the back.
Cutting Corners

Artist: Patrick Dougherty
2019, Willow

Located in the Great Lawn area, this massive sculpture was designed by internationally acclaimed artist, Patrick Dougherty and created from 30,000 pounds of willow during a three-week community build in January 2019. During the construction, Dougherty and his son and building partner, Sam Dougherty were supported by 106 volunteers.

The sculpture was named *Cutting Corners* by the artist as an ode to the five structures that intersect, creating a maze-like experience for visitors and a look reminiscent of a fortress that encourages awe and wonder.

About Patrick Dougherty

Patrick is based in North Carolina and is well known for his Stickwork projects that combine both his carpentry skills and love of nature. Over the years, his work has evolved from single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental scale environmental works that require saplings by the truckload. He has built more than 250 of these works over the last 30 years and has become internationally acclaimed. His sculptures have been seen in Scotland, Japan, Brussels and all over the United States, including two Florida gardens (McKee Botanical in Melbourne and Pinecrest Gardens in Miami). His most recent massive project was at Cincinnati’s Taft Museum of Art.
Harries Héder Collaborative artists, Mags Harries and Lajos Héder, have been doing pioneering work for years at the critical intersection of public art and the environment, and Windows on the Floating World is just that. Trees and tall plants screen paths as waterfalls fill the garden with dynamic sound and movement. Located at the heart of the tropical wetland, Window Walks allow visitors to walk on the water and access the adjacent Shade and Color Island. The Lotus Seat beckons visitors to rest and enjoy beautiful views of the entire wetland garden. Sitting on the Water’s Edge they feel as if they’re floating on water while experiencing the Lake’s tranquility up close. Etched glass portals throughout the garden educate visitors about wetland ecosystems.

Windows on the Floating World provides an outdoor learning laboratory and is home to the Ambassador of the Wetlands program for students to explore environmental stewardship and hands on field-experiences.

Winner of the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects 2018 Design Award of Honor
My Lovely Distraction (Bridge and Lake Overlook)

Artist: Mark T. Fuller

Dedicated in 2011, completed in 2012

Based on his belief that “we are all custodians of the environment,” Mark T. Fuller designed new bridge and overlook railings reusing pieces of the structure’s original pressure treated wood posts since chemicals would prevent them from being recycled. Mark suggests the wooden posts are a metaphor for gardens, the place where man manipulates nature to suit man’s needs. Orange accents reference flowering plants and trees in the area and the railing’s delicate leaf patterns provide maximum visibility to the beautiful surroundings.

The original installation included garden related poetry stained onto the concrete of the Island, which has faded away with time.

This Art in Public Places project was made possible by the Esther B. O’Keeffe Foundation.
Location: Zimmerman Color & Shade Island

Lungo Mare (Escofet Bench)

Artist: Escofet (Enric Miralles, Benedetta Tagliabue and Emili Farré-Escofet)

2009, Concrete

Lungo Mare, also referred to as the Escofet Bench, is made of hard concrete, but appears as a flowing feature of undulating waves – alluring passersby to sit or recline into its recesses. Without quite knowing what the piece exactly is, guests seem to instantly know what it is all about.

The Zimmerman Color & Shade Island went through a major landscape improvement beginning in fall of 2007. Past Mounts Botanical board member and landscape architect, Connie Roy Fisher, provided the new design. The Island was completely replanted, cap stone installed on its eastern flanks, and new concrete walks poured. On the north side, the Escofet Bench was to be added to provide a structural element important to any garden design. Of modular conceptual beauty, design and function, the bench is the brainchild of Escofet, a Barcelona based design firm, established in 1886. The bench arrived at Mounts Botanical from the company’s headquarters in Spain in 2009 and had to be craned into place.

The project was generously supported by a grant from the Esther B. O'Keeffe Foundation.