

UF Cultural Plaza Celebrates Earth Day on April 16

*The Harn Museum of Art and the Florida Museum of Natural History
will celebrate nature and explore the wonders of life on Earth.*

GAINESVILLE, FL, April 6, 2016— The Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida is offering children and families the opportunity to take a family-friendly tour of *Framing Nature: The Living World in Art* and participate in a scavenger hunt and art-making stations around the museum. These events will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on April 16. In addition the Florida Museum of Natural History will offer exhibits, interactive activities and a plant sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Harn Museum of Art exhibition *Framing Nature: The Living World in Art* takes a dynamic view of the artistic engagement with nature across cultures. It offers challenging and enriching perspectives on how visitors see and understand the natural world through the eyes of artists and makers from around the globe. The exhibition includes more than 100 drawings, prints, paintings, photographs and sculptures drawn from the Harn's main collecting areas of modern, contemporary, African and Asian art, and photography, as well as the collections of Oceanic art, Ancient American art, and Prints and Drawings before 1850.

Four art-making stations will be set up throughout the Harn Museum, each inspired by a work of art on view in the *Framing Nature* exhibition. Visitors will create textile designs, using a simple resist technique and encouraging a closer exploration of the work *Cloth with Olokun, Goddess of the Sea Motif (adire eleko)* made by the Yoruba people of Nigeria. Nature rubbings of leaves and other natural materials will take place, highlighting the processes behind the Chinese scroll *The Orchid Pavilion Gathering*, which is a rubbing of a stone sculpture with ink on paper. Bird sculptures will be constructed from recycled materials, inspired by Charles Doe's *Breeding of Birds of the Northeastern United States* and Jerry Uelsmann's *Flamingos Visit Yosemite*. Visitors will make compositions of natural objects to photograph as artist Evon Streetman does in her work, *Falling Landscape II*. Families may also participate in a museum-wide scavenger hunt finding depictions of nature both in the art on display and in the Harn's many garden spaces.

"Art is an excellent means through which to encourage discussion among families about appreciating and protecting the environment" said Rebecca Nagy, Harn Museum Director. "We hope this program along with activities at the Florida Museum of Natural History, will provide a fun-filled day of exploration at the UF Cultural Plaza."

The Florida Museum of Natural History will hold activities which include outdoor biodiversity walks by the FERNh Natural History Club in the adjacent UF Natural Area Teaching Laboratory, interactive stations featuring objects from the Florida Museum's collections, an environmentally-themed theater workshop hosted by the Hippodrome Teen Ensemble, and "Sing for Climate" and "FutureFlash! Climate Challenge sponsored by the Florida Earth Charter Initiative. Visitors can also enjoy one of the Florida Museum's largest plant sales of the year, with more than 150 species including nearly 100 Florida natives.

Earth Day activities at both museums are free and open to the public. For more information visit www.harn.ufl.edu and www.flmnh.ufl.edu.

Images are available upon request.

About the Harn Museum of Art

Founded in 1990, the Harn Museum of Art is an integral part of the University of Florida. The Harn contributes to an interconnected, international community by integrating the arts and culture into curricula throughout the university's system of colleges and centers. Its holdings include more than 10,000 works in five main collecting areas: Asian art, African art, photography, modern art of the Americas and Europe, and international contemporary art. The museum also has noteworthy collections of Oceanic and Ancient American Art and works on paper. In addition to rotating installations drawn from its permanent collection, the Harn organizes traveling exhibitions, public lectures, panel discussions, academic symposia, and educational programs for adults, students, and children.

The Harn Museum of Art, at 3259 Hull Road in Gainesville, Florida, is part of the University of Florida's Cultural Plaza, which is also home to the Florida Museum of Natural History and the Phillips Center for the Performing Arts. Admission is free. Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum is open until 9 p.m. the second Thursday of every month for Museum Nights. The Camellia Court Café is open Tuesday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 352-392-9826 or visit www.harn.ufl.edu.

About the Florida Museum of Natural History

The Florida Museum of Natural History inspires people to value the biological richness and cultural heritage of our diverse world and make a positive difference in its future. The museum is located at 3215 Hull Road just east of Southwest 34th Street in the University of Florida Cultural Plaza in Gainesville. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday. The museum's current featured exhibit, "First Colony: Our Spanish Origins," reveals the story of the nation's first enduring European settlement established in St. Augustine, Florida, long before the founding of Jamestown. Visitors explore the site's archaeology, history and stories of people who lived there through interactive activities and more than 400 artifacts. For more information, including directions, parking and ticket prices, visit www.flmnh.ufl.edu or call 352-846-2000.

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