



WE MAKE SPACE FOR ART

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CulturalDC's SPACE4: Visual Arts and the Smithsonian's National Zoo Present
Maggie Gourlay's *Adaptation/Migration in the Anthropocene***



November 24 – January 1 at the Smithsonian's National Zoo
Press Viewing: Tuesday, November 28, 11am
Community Kickoff: Friday, December 1, 6-8pm
Gallery Hours: Monday-Sunday 10am-9pm, except December 24, 25, and 31

WASHINGTON, DC – CulturalDC and the Smithsonian's National Zoo are pleased to present *Adaptation/Migration in the Anthropocene* by Maggie Gourlay, opening on Friday, November 24 at ZooLights, powered by Pepco. For the second exhibition in the SPACE4: Mobile Art Gallery, visitors are invited to walk through the fully transformed 40-ft shipping container to see artistic interpretations of invasive insect species that have migrated from around the world to the United States. This multimedia installation explores how these insects adapt to, and thrive in, warmer environments. Gourlay examines the impact humans have had on climate change, and arranges several air purifying plants alongside the invasive species to empower and educate the public on small steps they can take within their home to combat global warming. Visitors are invited to experience multimedia artwork involving these often visually arresting invasive pests, as well as visual and auditory reminders of the symbiotic relationship between people and nature. Viewers are also welcome to use a special edition stamp of one of Gourlay's "bug portraits" to create original invasive insect prints as a hands-on activity to take home.

Image Credit: Maggie Gourlay, *Asian Long-Horned Beetle*, watercolor pencil and coffee, 2017

ABOUT THE ARTIST

[Maggie Gourlay](#) is a visual artist whose work includes both installation and two-dimensional media to visually research our narratives of home. This current exhibit highlights Gourlay's concern with our larger home, the Earth, in hopes that it might provoke more thought and action to preserve our planet for future generations. Gourlay has exhibited her work widely, and has had artist residencies at the Vermont Studio School and Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center. She has been a semifinalist for the Janet and Water Sondheim Prize and the Trawick Prize, and is a recipient of purchase grants from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Gourlay received her MFA from Towson University and has taught art at Montgomery College in Rockville since 2010.

ABOUT CULTURALDC

[CulturalDC](#) has a 19-year history of creating affordable, sustainable artist spaces in the Washington, D.C., area. CulturalDC has brokered more than 250,000 square feet of artist space, including the Arts Walk at Monroe Street Market, Atlas Performing Arts Center, GALA Hispanic Theatre, Source Theatre and Woolly Mammoth Theatre. Each year, CulturalDC serves more than 1,000 artists and welcomes 30,000 audience members and participants who patronize local businesses and contribute an estimated \$1 million to the local economy.

CulturalDC is generously supported by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, The Community Foundation for the National Capitol Region, The National Endowment for the Arts, The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, DC Housing Authority, Metabolic Studio, a direct charitable activity of the Annenberg Foundation, Washington Gas, Daimler, Stantec, Dallas Morse Coors Foundation, Susan and Dixon Butler, Steve Stein and Pete Miller and Sara Cormeny.

ABOUT SPACE4: VISUAL ARTS

CulturalDC's [SPACE4: Visual Arts](#) will continue our strong history of presenting cutting edge artwork and emerging artists through a mobile art gallery. SPACE4: Visual Arts allows artists to transform a fully-outfitted 40ft shipping container into an immersive environment. The container will move across the city for the 2017-2018 season, with a new exhibit and a different community project in every neighborhood it visits. By outfitting a portable shipping container as a multi-functional space for art and by partnering with unconventional venues across the city, SPACE4: Visual Arts ensures that communities experience and engage in groundbreaking works.

Exhibitions were solicited through a competitive open-call process. Selected projects were recommended by an advisory panel comprised of noted artists and arts professionals in the DC area. This season's panel includes **Tonya Jordan**, a multi-disciplinary arts consultant, independent curator, and public art management specialist; **Akemi Maegawa**, a Corcoran alumni and artist specializing in sculpture and installation works; **Laura Roulet**, an independent curator specializing in contemporary and Latin American art and fostering artists in the DMV region; and **Schwanda Rountree**, independent curator and collector for Rountree Art Consulting.

ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN'S NATIONAL ZOO AND CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE

Always free of charge and open 364 days a year, the [Smithsonian's National Zoo](#) is one of Washington D.C.'s, and the Smithsonian Institution's, most popular tourist destinations, with more than 2 million visitors from all over the world each year. The Zoo instills a lifelong commitment to conservation through engaging experiences with animals and the people working to save them. The Zoo sits on 163 acres in the heart of Washington, D.C.'s Rock Creek Park and is home to more than 1,500 animals across 300 different species. The Zoo's commitment to conservation, research, and education extends to the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI), located in nearby Front Royal, Virginia. SCBI scientists and animal care experts conduct veterinary and reproductive research to save wildlife and habitats for some of the world's most endangered animals on the sprawling 3,200-acre campus. SCBI leads the Smithsonian's global effort to save species, better understand ecosystems, and train future generations of conservationists.

For more information visit culturaldc.org.

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