Instinct Extinct: The Great Pacific Flyway Explores Ancient Phenomenon

Open on Aug. 20, Instinct Extinct: The Great Pacific Flyway, fills the Grace Hudson Museum’s Main Gallery with an exciting multi-disciplinary contemporary art installation featuring the work of Sacramento-area artists Valerie Constantino, Glenda Drew, and Ann Savageau. Present and past faculty members at UC Davis and Sacramento State, Constantino, Drew, and Savageau have formed an artists’ partnership to explore and celebrate the biology, beauty and bounty of the Pacific Flyway: a major north-south pathway for migratory birds in America.

The three artists see the installation as a way to capture the essence of the Pacific Flyway (with an emphasis on the Flyway within California), and its astonishing and millennia-long migration route for millions of birds. Using inter-disciplinary media from Goboscopes to stroboscopes (that create the illusion of flight within the gallery), and from video installations to assemblage boxes, they view the Flyway through a range of lenses: navigation, the artists’ main intent is to convey their appreciation for the hundreds of species of birds—songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds and others—that return to our state each year. At the same time, they hope to address issues of habitat loss, development, pesticide use, and climate change (all serious threats to the environment in general and migratory birds in particular) in a way that encourages conservation and positive adjustments to current ecological practices.

Instinct Extinct: The Great Pacific Flyway is a traveling exhibition from Exhibit Envoy, funded by The James Irvine Foundation and curated by Constantino, Drew, and Savageau. Support for its Ukiah venue comes from Amy Neel, the Neel Family Foundation and the Sun House Guild. We have supplemented this exhibit with bird specimens from the University of California’s Hopland Research and Extension Center and Sonoma County’s Lake Sonoma Visitors Center, thus providing opportunities to see regional Flyway birds up close. See the Calendar of Events on the back page of this newsletter for affiliated programs to be held in conjunction with this exhibit.

—Karen Holmes, Curator
Construction News

Building continues apace at the Grace Hudson Museum. Our new Outdoor Classroom is in the finishing stages and looks beautiful, while the peeled pole framework of the Pomo Brush Arbor is complete, awaiting the installation of its custom-fit shade cloth awning. Around the edges of the Museum, it looks like a colony of jumbo-sized gophers has been hard at work, as folks from Baelin Landscaping are gluing irrigation pipes together and laying them into a multitude of trenches. Meanwhile, on property adjacent to the Museum, carpenters are busy erecting a long-awaited senior housing project. In short, our block of Main Street is a hive of construction equipment and workers.

Next, the footings for the earth block wall will be excavated and laid. The wall, which incorporates a Pomo basket design, will encircle much of our Nature Education Project, named “The Wild Gardens.” Work is also beginning on the big outdoor water feature, “The Salmon Stream,” that will recycle rainwater harvested from the Museum’s expansive roof and stored in our new water tanks. These are exciting times, as we are coming nearer and nearer to completing the infrastructure of the long-planned Nature Education Project. Come down and see what is happening for yourself. We’d love to show you around!

—Sherrie Smith-Ferri, Museum Director

Special Thanks for Your Support

George and Ruth Bradford Foundation * Cheryl Rae Wantland * Jan Hoyman * Joanne LaCase * Naumee Gowan * Stephen & Liesbeth Pasternak

In Memory of Tom Neil
Dottie Neil

In Memory of Marlys Blanc
Tommy and Ann Thornhill

In Memory of Gudrun Dye
Janet King

In Memory of Alice Clare Swan
Geneva York

In Memory of Billie Smith
Diana & Steve Thomas
William Smith

In Memory of Virginia Fitch
Sally Heath
Janet King

Phoenix Legacy

In Memory of Tom Neil
Dottie Neil

In Memory of Marlys Blanc
Tommy and Ann Thornhill

In Memory of Gudrun Dye
Janet King

In Memory of Alice Clare Swan
Geneva York

Grace Hudson Museum Calendar of Events

Saturday, August 20–November 27, 2016
Instinct Extinct:
The Great Pacific Flyway
Explore and celebrate the biology, beauty, and bounty of the Pacific Flyway—a major north-south flight path for migratory birds in America—with this multi-disciplinary contemporary art installation by Valerie Constantino, Glenda Drew, and Ann Savageau.

Saturday, September 10, 5:30–10 pm
Grace Hudson Museum’s 30th Anniversary Gala
Handson childrens art workshop making feather prints and learning feather facts with Cathy Monroe and friends. Call (707) 467-2836 for ticket information or order online at www.gracehudsonmuseum.org.

Saturday, September 24, 2–4 pm
Artists’ Gallery Tour of Instinct Extinct
Join exhibit artists Valerie Constantino, Glenda Drew, and Ann Savageau as they discuss their work both as individuals and as Instinct Extinct collaborators. Free with Museum admission. Refreshments follow the tour.

Saturday, October 8, 1–2:30 pm
Family Fun at the Museum
Hands-on childrens art workshop making feather prints and learning fun feather facts with Cathy Monroe and friends. Call the Museum for details, reservations recommended, materials included. Free with Museum admission.

Friday, November 4, 5–8 pm
First Friday Art Walk Event: HREC Migratory Bird Program
Learn about regional migratory birds with Hopland Research and Extension Center’s (HREC) educator, Hannah Bird, while celebrating the Mendocino Mushroom, Wine and Beer Festival with mushroom appetizers at the First Friday Art Walk. Free.

Saturday, December 3, 10 am–3 pm
Annual Holiday Open House
Start your holidays at the Museum! Visit Santa Claus, tour the Sun House and admire its vintage decorations, shop at our local arts and crafts sale, and savor seasonal refreshments. Receive 15% off Museum Gift Shop purchases. Free.