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Image Attached, Additional Images Available Upon Request

Coventry Creations

The Cleveland Institute of Art brings the wild things to Coventry

Cleveland: Great restaurants and unique stores attract diners and shoppers of all ages to Coventry, but different sorts of creatures still call this historic area home. The Cleveland Institute of Art is partnering with the Coventry Village Special Improvement District to celebrate these often-unseen residents. With a little help from local kids, animals will roam free on Coventry Road on April 17, 18 and 19 as part of Coventry Creations, with costumes, parades and treasure hunts.

Coventry Creations is a community-based project sponsored by The Cleveland Institute of Art's Visual Arts and Technology Environment and the Institute's Kacalief Visiting Artist Lecture Series, in collaboration with the Coventry Village Special Improvement District. The project is an arts-driven event celebrating the family, while advocating for sustainable living through an awareness of a still present nature. All events are free and open to the public.

Coordinated by CIA's Environmental Sculpture course, the project is inspired by the Sculpture Department's visiting artist Fritz Haeg and his international work with environmental awareness in projects like his "Edible Estates" and "Animal Estates." Coventry Creations seeks to explore the intersections between nature and humans, through learning about the animals that were and are part of the Coventry ecosystem.

Beginning April 13, an informational exhibit at the Coventry Library will provide resources to promote awareness of the local environment as well as tools for learning to live more sustainably. On Friday, April 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., there will be an opening reception for the exhibit "Imagining a Sustainable Life," curated by CIA painting student Will Laughlin '10. This exhibit, featuring works on the theme of sustainability, will be on display on the second floor of 1854 Coventry Road, above Phoenix Coffee. As part of the opening evening's events, there will also be a presentation of the live performance piece "Animal Talk Back." Artists will attire themselves in costumes and assume the personas of a few local animals, speaking from points of view. "Imagining a Sustainable Life" will also be open on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

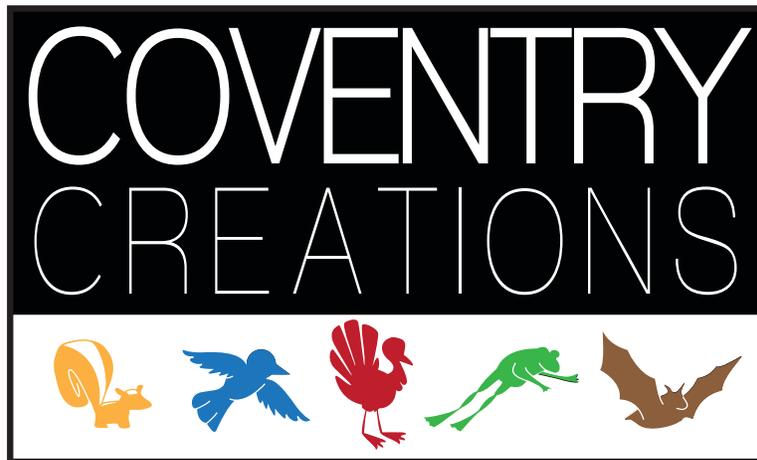
On Saturday April 18, also from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the public will have the opportunity to participate in an art fair, where visitors can create their own art relating to animals. This fair will take place on the west side of the Coventry business district, between Hampshire and Lancashire Roads. There will also be live music provided by local bands. From noon to 12:30 p.m., Harvey Webster from the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will bring along some live animal guests to meet and greet people.

Also on Saturday April 18, the main event of this family-friendly fun will be Coventry Creature Creations. From noon to 2 p.m., the public will have the opportunity to create a creature costume of their very own, modeled after animals that live or used to live in the Coventry area. With art materials and assistance provided by CIA students, kids can magically morph into blue birds, skunks, turtles, green frogs and butterflies. This activity will be held at the corner of Euclid Heights Boulevard and Coventry. At 2:30, these new creatures will show off their costumes in the Creature Parade down Coventry. There will be prizes for the best costumes.

Also on Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., a Creature Treasure Hunt game will be open to all children. Stores on Coventry are playing host to different Creature Cards, and the kids can challenge themselves to collect all of the cards. The informational, artistic cards are for the children to keep, and there are more prizes for those who wrangle up certain herds of Creature Cards. "Animals" will be roaming the streets to help children in their pursuit of the elusive creatures.

As the capstone to the weekend's festivities, Fritz Haeg will return to Cleveland to discuss his work and his interest in the relationships between humans, nature and art. He will speak at the exhibition space on the second floor of 1854 Coventry Road, above Phoenix Coffee, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday April 19.

There is a Coventry Creations blog, which provides updates on the project's evolution as well as links to sites supporting sustainable living, relevant artists and essays, and the latest information about these events. Visit the blog at <http://coventrycreations.blogspot.com>.



Founded in 1882, The Cleveland Institute of Art is an independent college of art and design committed to leadership and vision in all forms of visual arts education. The Cleveland Institute of Art is located at 11141 East Boulevard in Cleveland, Ohio. For more information visit www.cia.edu or call 216-421-7000.