

## Sculpture Commissions

Where: RBG Kew Summer festival 2010

When: 29 May – 5 September 2010

Submission of proposal(s): extended to 4 March 2010

Information on sculpture(s) -

**ant(s); beetle(s); fly/flies; humming birds; bats; hawk moth(s)**, scale, materials, costings, install and drawings/images of sculptures/sculptural installation, CV and images of previous work.

Installation date: Week of 16 May 2010

Contact: Festivals Manager, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB

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Festivals at RBG Kew is commissioning up to 6 large-scale sculptures and/or multiples of sculptures in small/medium scale. Each sculpture commission has a value of up to £5K.

Description: This large scale installation in the Princess of Wales Conservatory (PoWC) will explore plants and their pollinators, their interesting, unusual and unbelievable stories. The plants of the PoWC will introduce visitors to their special pollinator friends, presenting their stories in collaboration with e.g. large scale sculptural and/or multiples of sculptures of insects, birds, bats, moths, etc.

Requirement: **Each sculpture and/or sculpture installation will be of an ant(s); beetle(s); fly/flies; humming birds; bats; hawk moth(s).**

**The following description is what we expect the visitor to view. We require sculptures of insects, birds, bats and hawk moths. It is important to undertake research on the physical form and structure of the insects, birds, bats, hawk moth as part of the proposal and visuals presented in your submission.**

### **Insect pollination – PoWC zone 1**

**Description:** Visitors will travel from the fern zone into zone 1 and witness a **family of ants** pollinating the Chocolate tree (*Theobroma cacao*).

**Messaging:** In the wild it is believed to be pollinated by midges or ants. 60% of flowers never get pollinated, only about 5% of flowers receive enough pollen to initiate fruit development and from their tiny flowers massive cocoa pods are produced.

### **Insect pollination – PoWC zone 1**

**Description:** As a **large scale sculpture/series of a fly/flies hover (s)**, visitors will be introduced to the role of flies in pollination through 3 types of plants: Dutchman's pipe *Aristolochia* species, *Amorphophallus titanum* and *Araceae*.

**Messaging:**

- These plants attract their pollinator by smelling of rotting flesh and being dark red in colour.

### **Bird Pollination – PoWC zone 1**

**Description:** A **flock of hummingbirds** will greet visitors as they reach the Bromeliads at the top ridge in Zone 1.

**Messaging:**

- Flowering bromeliads are an important source of food for pollinators such as bees, wasps, moths, butterflies and hummingbirds, among others.

- The reciprocal importance of bromeliads and hummingbirds has been proposed for many years, even suggesting co-evolution between these two groups.

#### **Beetle pollination – PoWC zone 1**

**Description:** In the pond a **large scale fluttering beetle/series of beetles** covered in pollen emerges/emerge from the *Victoria amazonica* (waterlily).

#### **Messaging:**

- Beetles fly to the white female flowers at night, the flowers close round them at night, keeping them warm, and as they leave in the morning they get covered in pollen. The Waterlily opens a male pink flower the next day.

#### **Bat and bird pollination – PoWC cacti zone**

**Description:** The cacti zone will tell the story of pollination with the aid of large scale sculptures of bats and birds.

#### **Messaging:**

- Bat pollinators are often attracted to plants with heavy, musty scents and locate them using sonar as the flowers deflect the sound. They often exist in symbiotic relationships with cacti whereby the bat and cacti depend on each other, the bats are vital for night pollination and dispersal of seeds
- Bird pollinators are often attracted to red flowers which tend not to be scented but have lots more nectar. Examples are: finches pollinate *saguaro cactus* in North America and hummingbirds pollinate *fuschia* which have springy stems so ants fall off!
- Bird of Paradise, *Strelitzia reginae* go to a lot of effort to get pollinated. The flowers indicate that there is something attractive on offer. Part of the flower acts as a perch, and the action of the bird inserts its beak to collect nectar forces the pollen to become exposed to the bird's neck. In this way the pollen is carried from plant to plant. When one flower is pollinated it folds back exposing the next flower.

#### **Hawk Moth pollination – Tropical Orchid Zone**

**Description:** Visitors will enter the tropical orchid zone (zone 6) which will host tropical butterflies. They will encounter the comet orchid (*Angraecum sesquipedale*) and meet a large scale sculpture of its pollinator, **the hawk moth**. This moth uses its long tongue to reach the store of nectar at the bottom of the 30cm long spur and by doing so releases the orchid's pollen. The comet orchid is an excellent example of a plant pollinated during the night and also demonstrates a famous co-evolution story.

#### **Terms and Conditions:**

1. Materials used must take into consideration the atmosphere of the zones work will be located in:
  - 1.1 Zone 1 in the PoWC houses plants from the wet tropics.  
This zone is very humid and work needs to be durable and water resistant.
  - 1.2 The Cacti zone houses plants from arid areas.  
This dry zone can support the install of light weight materials that can hang from the conservatory ceiling and also extend work over large spaces with the support of pillars, etc.
2. Work must have animation and not exist as just an object in space. This means it should be site specific, compliment its conservatory environment and communicate with it.
3. Materials should take into consideration the natural environment and the site specificity of location but potentially offer a contrast to this environment.
4. Large scale sculptures should be constructed in components in order to ensure that they can enter the building and be installed with ease.
5. The install of a sculpture can be in a variety of ways such as using interesting and animated structures that can position sculptures in plant bedding, light weight materials hanging from conservatory ceiling, sitting on rocks, on a platform in a pond, etc.
6. RBG Kew staff will be responsible for the install of works in collaboration with the artist.

7. On receipt of submission(s), we may be interested in elements of your submission and work with you to develop it further, etc.
8. Fee, £5K maximum/commission including materials, transport, site visit, etc.
9. Electronic submissions are accepted. Please ensure to keep file sizes low.

For further information on the Princess of Wales Conservatory, visit  
<http://www.kew.org/ksheets/pow.html>