

ArtWorks



ARTWORKS AND CINCINNATI NATURE CENTER ANNOUNCE NEW DOWNTOWN MURAL TO CELEBRATE FAMED CINCINNATI ARTIST JOHN RUTHVEN
MURAL TO FEATURE “MARTHA”, THE LAST SURVIVING PASSENGER PIGEON, AND IS PART OF THE YEAR OF JOHN RUTHVEN

In partnership with Cincinnati Nature Center, ArtWorks will collaborate with John A. Ruthven this summer to create their largest mural to date. This huge public artwork will cover a now-empty downtown wall at the corner of 8th and Vine streets. To translate Mr. Ruthven’s iconic work to this 6000 square foot canvas, 15 teenage apprentices will be hired to work under the guidance of lead artist Tim Parsley. Ruthven’s mural celebrates Cincinnati’s conservation history, illustrating Martha – the last passenger pigeon – flying over the pagodas of the Cincinnati Zoo, where she lived out the last days of what was once the most numerous bird species in America. The mural will be a striking example of Ruthven’s artistic achievement in the Audubon style and his work for wildlife conservation.

ArtWorks and Cincinnati Nature Center are also proud to announce the Year of John Ruthven, a Cincinnati-wide celebration of one of the Queen City’s most beloved natives. As part of this year of celebration, ArtWorks and Cincinnati Nature Center have brought together over a dozen Greater Cincinnati institutions to host events focusing on John Ruthven’s achievements and life’s work in art and conservation.

Ruthven, a naturalist, author, lecturer and internationally acknowledged master of wildlife art, is often called the “20th Century Audubon”. Like his famous predecessor, Ruthven undertakes extensive study and research for each subject before creating his beautifully detailed paintings. After serving in World War II, Ruthven entered the Cincinnati Art Academy, where he befriended classmate and minimalist wildlife artist Charley Harper. Ruthven has been recognized as Duck’s Unlimited First Artists of the Year, First Ohio Duck Stamp Artist and First Ohio Animal Stamp/Print Artist. His work has been exhibited internationally, including unveilings at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia, and the White House.

To add to the celebration, Ruthven has been selected to receive Cincinnati Nature Center's Wood Thrush Award. The Wood Thrush Award – featuring one of Ruthven's own renderings of the namesake bird – was established in 2012 to recognize significant commitments to land conservation and stewardship in the Greater Cincinnati region. This October 1st, Mr. Ruthven will be honored at Cincinnati Nature Center with the award for his lifetime contribution to conservation. Proceeds from the Wood Thrush Award event are used to preserve and protect Cincinnati Nature Center's lands through land acquisition and conservation easements.

To create the new Ruthven Mural and support the Cincinnati Nature Center's Land Conservation Fund, ArtWorks and Cincinnati Nature Center are working together to raise \$200,000 in Mr. Ruthven's honor. The Wood Thrush Award event raises funds to preserve and protect Cincinnati Nature Center lands through land acquisition and conservation easements. This year's Wood Thrush Award will be given to John Ruthven in honor of his outstanding commitment to land conservation and stewardship in Greater Cincinnati and beyond. If you would like to honor Mr. Ruthven with a contribution to this collaborative project, please contact Teresa Hoelle (Teresa@artworkscincinnati.org) or Jeff Sperry (jsperry@cincynature.org).

About ArtWorks: Founded in 1996, ArtWorks is an award-winning non-profit organization that empowers and inspires the creative community to transform our everyday environments through employment, apprenticeships, education, community partnerships, and civic engagement. ArtWorks' Public Art Initiative creates innovative works that enrich Greater Cincinnati while providing job opportunities to youth and professional artists. ArtWorks' ArtRX transforms the lives of patients and their families through the healing power of art. Through Creative Enterprise, SpringBoard provides training and business courses to creative entrepreneurs. ArtWorks has provided job opportunities for more than 2,500 youth artists and 500 professional artists, and has graduated 100 creative entrepreneurs and artisans from SpringBoard. ArtWorks is generously funded by many community supporters including the City of Cincinnati, the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr./US Bank Foundation, ArtsWave, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Ohio Arts Council. To learn more or to support ArtWorks, visit ArtWorksCincinnati.org.

About Cincinnati Nature Center (CNC): Cincinnati Nature Center enriches lives by inspiring passion for nature through experience, education and stewardship. Founded in 1965, CNC provides more than 1,600 acres of Eastern deciduous forests, fields, streams and ponds, with twenty miles of award-winning trails on two picturesque properties. From enchanting spring wildflowers to the dazzling colors of autumn, the ever-changing beauty of nature attracts over 100,000 visitors each year. CNC presents a wide variety of classes, programs, summer camps and unique opportunities to interact on a personal level with nature and wildlife. In addition, one-of-a-kind community events like *Preparing for Night*, *Winter Solstice* and *Great Outdoor Weekend* provide spectacular experiences for people of all ages during all seasons.

CNC's Rowe Woods is located at 4949 Tealtown Road in Milford. To learn more, visit CincyNature.org.

“Year of John Ruthven” Participating Organizations

Art Academy of Cincinnati

ArtWorks

Chatfield College

Cincinnati Art Museum

Cincinnati Museum Center

Cincinnati Nature Center

Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Hamilton County Park District

Greenacres

Little Miami, Inc.

Lloyd Library and Museum

SPCA Cincinnati

Spring Grove Cemetery and Arboretum

WCET