

## April Public Tour: **The Power and Beauty of Nature**

Artists around the world and throughout time have reveled in the “power and beauty” of nature in its many forms. Find your own connections as we consider the colors and fragrance of flowers, the abundance of fields and forests, the serenity of the wilderness, and the awesome forces of wind and water.

Image: Arthur Wesley Dow, *The Destroyer*, 2009.62

### **Ideas for Crafting Your Public Tour**

**Goal:** Create an art-centered tour where visitors can share their own relationship with nature and reflect on the many ways people connect to nature. Include art from around the world and of different time periods in order to make global connections.

**Your tour is your own—these ideas are suggestions.**

1. **Consider your own experiences** with nature. What connections are important to you? Start the tour with a related work in order to role-model how the art reflects what has meaning for you.
2. **Encourage varying points of view.** Have people speak from their own experience. You could also introduce relationships they may not have thought about.
  - People who live in the Twin Cities in houses and apartments – to match their experiences, search our website for words like **garden, flower, park, pets, cricket, rock.**
  - People who grew up outside the Twin Cities or visit friends/relatives who live in rural areas – search for **farming, hunting, fishing.** What was their experience of nature? Social activities? Solitary? What traditions developed? If the object is from another time period, how are things different today?
3. **Preserving our natural environment.** Look for objects related to the environment or endangered species and how we have increased awareness of humans’ impact on nature.
4. **Finding serenity in wild places.** Objects showing people hiking, walking, or sitting in areas with nature nearby or alone in a remote wilderness. How does where you are or what you are doing in nature affect your experience?
5. **Witnessing the awesome force of nature.** During the last several years the US has experienced devastating hurricanes, fires, floods, etc. “Natural disasters” display the great power of nature. Have any visitors or their friends been involved in these events? How does that affect their view of nature? Witnessing the power of nature can be inspiring, too (Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls). Include an object that showcases nature in its most awesome form.

An exciting exhibition of photographs by Naoya Hatakeyama has just opened at Mia; look for ways to incorporate these impactful images into tours where appropriate. These are some excellent works to discuss our human impact on the natural world.

<https://new.artsmia.org/exhibition/excavating-the-future-city-photographs-by-naoya-hatakeyama/>

Article about the show from the New Yorker:

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/a-japanese-photographer-traces-how-cities-are-built-and-destroyed>