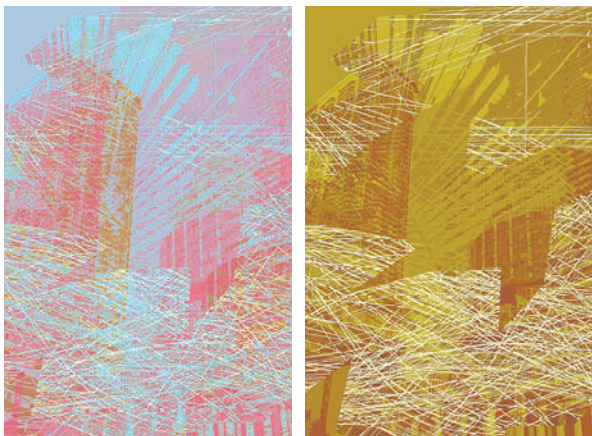


This inaugural exhibition of nature-inspiring eco-art at Crandon Park's Botanical Gardens at the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee celebration. Nine artists selected from public call for entries across eight larger-than-life displays printed on large-scale fabric print material, each depicting a different element taken from the Miami-Dade County's Ecological Transect. A nature-based range of swatches was incorporated to creatively challenge the artists not only in concept, but in pigmentation. Below are the selected works along with artist names, project titles and descriptions. We invite you to explore the works at Crandon Gardens and read along to learn about the intent of each work of art as you go.

### **Let Me Love This Place**

By Sarah Belfer, *Florida International University Student*

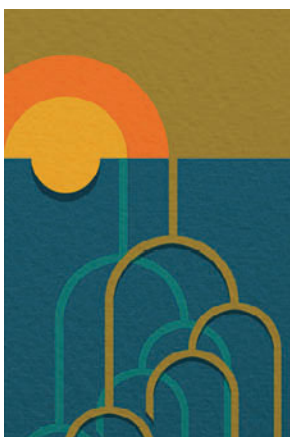
This work explores our Miami-based local built environment superimposed with the wild and untamed beauty that seeps through the cracks of our modern world. The juxtaposition of the two is a marriage of these opposing worlds. The songs of our birds, the roaring of cars and planes, the buzzing of mosquitos and dragonflies, the thousands of shades of green, the invisible gold that seems to cover the entire sunshine state, the energy of its people are all represented through layering the collages. Overall, the pieces call attention to loving, protecting, and observing this messy beauty and harmony found within nature.



### **Rooted**

Joe Biegger, *Freelance Landscape Architect*

This abstracted ocean sunset view illustration makes visible the ecological workings that power the stunning water views Miami is best known for. Beneath the waters surface exists an intricate web of cascading mangrove roots calling attention to how they provide habitat, life, and stability for our vulnerable shorelines without which our shores as we know them would become barren and unsustainable.



## Piping Plover

By Christina Currais, *Florida International University Student*

The piping plover spends its time on the shore searching for worms and small crustaceans. Because they blend well with their surroundings, you might only notice their orange legs the moment they scurry along the shore. Their home, these dunes, are not only beautiful, but serve an important ecological function – shoreline stability. These grasses, shrubs, and trees hold on to sand and protect us from erosion. This wild habitat and piper are illustrated to share the importance of how our ecological system in open spaces provides a barrier that slows flooding during storm events for people and animals alike.



## Virginia Key 2060

By Bryce Donner, *SWA Group*

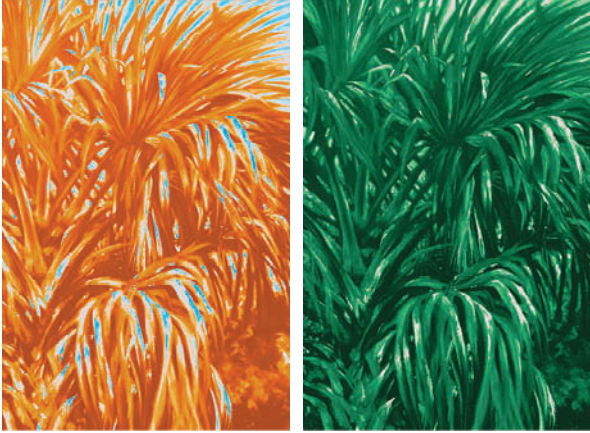
This artist nods towards future outdoor open spaces in the year 2060. The images visually represent mangroves, marshes, coastal dunes and current trends in recreational uses such as biking, kayaking, and parasailing within these rich spaces and natural systems. Through the process of colorization with the nature-based palette, a dynamic undersea of flourishing sea grass, coral reefs, and nature are revealed. As sea levels rise we can be inspired to elevate our parks by allowing them to evolve over time and continue to help recreational facilities to emerge.



## Sabal Palmetto

By Monica Ferrer, *Florida International University Student*

This artist chose to focus her proposal on depicting the iconic sabal palmetto. This palm is native to the Southeastern United States and takes residence in the Everglades. As groundwater levels are high in our county, the work responds to the need to plan for our environment to accommodate spaces where plants such as the sabal palm can flourish. At large, the pieces serve as a reminder of the need for environmental conservation.



## The Region of Mystery

By Elizabeth Cardona, *NC-office*

These two graphics are taken from a picture book by the artist that takes visual notations of this regions landscapes within the context of sea level rise as a dystopian condition. This close-ups from the story can be understood as expressive tools for communicating and educating ourselves and others about natural communities that involve our climate, topography, geology, hydrology, ecology and conservation. Rich textures and colors that range from high to low contrast consider the heroic through process necessary to imagine the urban built form as a competing force against our climate.



## The Protectors

By Peter Salamon, *URBZZ*

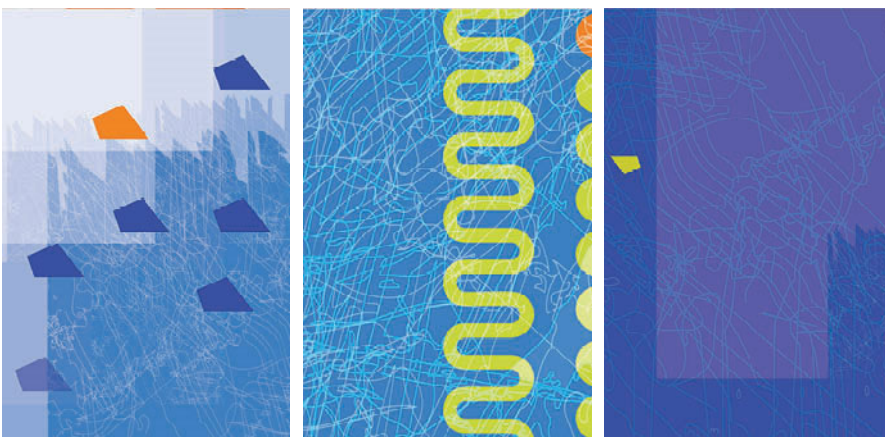
This piece represents two of the most important protectors of our ecosystem; the dune and the reef. Dunes prevent erosion, guard against storm surge, and provide habitats for birds and other sand dwellers. Coral reefs buffer shorelines against waves, storms, and floods. Together, they help to prevent loss of life, property damage and erosion. They also provide a home to countless species of fish and marine life. Fossilized reef formation is collaged to pay homage to the adventurous fun experienced by scuba divers and sightseers within these zones.



## “Landscape Language”

By Ann Tarantino, *Independent Artist*

This artist visually explores experiences of place and landscape and in particular, the movement across time and space at park sites. She represents humans and animals in the abstract by breaking these investigations down into shapes, colors, and forms with intricate swirling lines suggestive of ancient footsteps through the site or modern transport systems. The illustrations capture the attention of the viewer through these mappings of movement that are both literal and figurative using primarily the colors of blue.



## Untitled

By Sinay Mari, Independent Artist

Our coastal dunes are home to the tortoises, crabs, birds and pollinators, alligators and more. We can also find fishes in our calm to crashing ocean waves and rustling palm fronds fade in and out around you. We even have tall wispy sea oats that sway in the breeze and low lying yellow beach sunflowers dot the sandy hills. This art piece is done by hand and later digitized using an ocean-inspired color scheme to call attention to the animals along our precious shorelines.



## Ascending Butterflies

By Cheri Vice, *Independent Artist*

Watching a butterfly emerge from a chrysalis is an example of the precious beauty that can be found on our earth. When we take a moment to observe our surroundings we can experience its quiet power. This art piece illustrates the importance and sacredness of found nature that exists within our South Florida ecology and through the celebration and illustration of the garden, the butterfly and the sun, true gifts that surround us.

