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ROBERLEY BELL

AMERICAN, BORN 1955

LOCUS AMOENUS, 2015

Chain link with powder coating, welded and forged polychrome steel urns, and weathered cast-plaster birds with tree trunk

July–October 2016

[Tiftt Nature Preserve](#)

The sculptures in *Locus Amoenus, 2015*, were created by Roberley Bell, whose work regularly explores aspects of our environment. The works are designed to draw attention to the significant human interventions necessary to protect and maintain the fragile ecosystem at the [Tiftt Nature Preserve](#).

The most prevalent mature trees at Tiftt are shallow rooting and short-lived, making them vulnerable to strong winds coming off Lake Erie. In an effort to diversify and protect the landscape and tree canopy at the Preserve, more than 2,000 long-lived native species were planted between 2009 and 2015 to enhance tree regeneration and to provide a more diverse and sustainable ecosystem. These trees are young and vulnerable, especially to deer and beaver, and require special protection in the form of enclosures surrounding the trunks.

This installation relies on the dramatic and unexpected usage of color and materials to bring awareness to the necessary protective cages surrounding newly planted trees. By focusing attention on the fragility of the land at Tiftt, the artist hopes to inspire your thoughtful participation and sensitive stewardship in the maintenance and health of our environment and our shared landscapes.

Led by the [Buffalo Museum of Science](#), the planting efforts at [Tiftt Nature Preserve](#) will ensure and improve valuable habitats for wildlife, especially migrating songbirds. Although the major planting effort is complete, management will continue with additional maintenance and monitoring of tree health and survival.

This project is presented by the Albright-Knox Art Gallery Public Art Initiative in partnership with the [Buffalo Museum of Science](#) and [Tiftt Nature Preserve](#).

The [Public Art Initiative](#) is supported by the County of Erie and the City of Buffalo.



Installation view of Roberley Bell's *Locus Amoenus, 2015*, at Tiftt Nature Preserve. Photograph by Tom Loonan.

TODAY

TODAY | LOCATION | ADMISSION

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 2410 am **Museum Day Live!**

1 pm **Adult Art Class:
Drawing Defining
Sculpture—
CANCELLED**

Upcoming Events ▶

HOURS: 10 am–5 pm

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[New public art project at Tiftt Nature Preserve is wild](#) (*The Buffalo News*)

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