

THE LOST BIRD PROJECT

EXTINCT NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS IMMORTALIZED AS BRILLIANT BRONZE SCULPTURES

From January 12 through June 25, 2017 at the **Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens** (ANSG), **Todd McGrain's** five large bronze memorial bird sculptures will perch on the main lawn of the historic West Palm Beach landmark for **The Lost Bird Project**. Perfect for all ages, art enthusiasts as well as bird lovers and environmentalists, the exhibition will also feature McGrain's smaller bronze works as well as his personal drawings and photos, curated for the first time in an exhibit to be showcased throughout the Ann Norton home's historic interior Gallery space.

"When a species of bird leaves the earth forever, it is often all too quietly," said **Frances Fisher**, President of the ANSG Board of Trustees. "Sculptor **Todd McGrain** is using his talent to make sure extinct birds are not forgotten. Since Ann's garden was originally designed to be a sanctuary for local and migrating birds, it only seemed natural to have **The Lost Birds** nest in our gardens for a while. Thanks to a presenting sponsorship from **Wilmington Trust**, this is an opportunity for **The Gardens** to showcase not only beautiful sculptures and additional supporting programming, but also a noble cause that is important to us." Artist **Todd McGrain**



*Carolina Parakeet
Cast Bronze
51" high x 89" wide
x 31" deep*



*Labrador Duck
Cast Bronze
58" high x 39" wide
x 27" deep*

heads **The Lost Bird Project** a sculpture project which artfully recognizes the tragedy of modern extinction by immortalizing North American birds that have been driven out of existence. His striking bronze sculptures of the Passenger Pigeon, the Carolina Parakeet, the Labrador Duck, the Great Auk and the Heath Hen have been exhibited far and wide, but never before accompanied by an exhibition to showcase McGrain's process and research in creating them.

"Along with immortalizing the birds, I hope that the sculptures convince all of us to recognize our duty to prevent further unnecessary extinction," said McGrain. "If we don't preserve life, we will only be left with memories and memorials. I am looking forward to introducing **The Lost Bird Project** to new audiences in South Florida and Ann Norton's gardens and historic home are the perfect venue for these birds."

A sculptor for more than 25 years, McGrain has received a number of grants and awards including the Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship. His permanent sculpture

installations can be viewed at such prestigious venues as the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C. and the Memorial Art Gallery, Rochester, NY, among others. For the past 10 years, McGrain has been directing his strengths as a sculptor toward **The Lost Bird Project**.

"The rich programming, the opportunity to embrace another aspect of the beloved Gardens, and the unique chance to assist in bringing this important work to a South Florida audience, made this partnership with ANSG take flight," said **Robert W. Bauchman**, President of Wilmington Trust's Florida market and a Vero Beach resident. "We can't wait to introduce our clients and new friends to this exciting exhibition and to the very special gardens, historic home and art studio, and incredible sculptures Ann Norton created."

Regular gallery visitation is Wednesday through Sunday, 10am to 4pm and is free for members, \$10 for non-member adults, \$8 for seniors (age 65 and older), \$7 for students and children under five are free. During the exhibition, an ANSG curator will be available to answer questions on Wednesdays from noon to 4pm and Sundays at noon. In addition to **The Lost Bird Project** exhibition, special programming including artist talks, book signings and on-garden demonstrations will be offered.

The historic Ann Norton Sculpture Gardens, Inc. is a nonprofit organization established in 1977 by the prominent sculptor Ann Weaver Norton (1905-1982). Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it is located at 2051 South Flagler Drive. The 2-acre sanctuary is comprised of rare palm and sculpture gardens. Ann Norton's historic home, exhibition galleries and Norton's own Wyeth-designed artist studio. The Gardens are also available for private events and are closed on major holidays. For more information call 561.832.5328 or visit www.ansg.org. PHOTOS COURTESY OF TODD MCGRAIN.

*Heath Hen
Cast Bronze
55" high x 44" wide
x 31" deep*



*Great Auk
Cast Bronze
67" high x 33" wide x 21" deep*



Todd McGrain