



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Highfield Hall & Gardens' Summer Art Exhibitions Showcase the "Unexpected"
Curvaceous ceramic forms, Out of the Box sculptures, and Earthly Delights fill the historic mansion and grounds

This summer at Highfield Hall & Gardens there are several unexpected twists: contemporary ceramics that rely on ancient firing techniques, whimsical art that defies boundaries, giant outdoor musical instruments, and a geodesic dome.

"While we love traditions, we're also offering the unexpected," says Executive Director Peter Franklin. "This summer, we're bringing an incredible fusion of art, science, and nature to the community. We want people to see things they've never seen, learn things they didn't know--and just have fun spending time at this magnificent estate. There's no place like it."

Internationally-recognized artist Chris Gustin is the curator for *Crosscurrents: Movements in Contemporary Ceramics* showing through September 3. The exhibit features several of the large-scale, curvaceous forms for which he is known, along with work by eight acclaimed ceramists he has worked with over the last 40 years. Another section of the exhibit will feature small vessels and sculptures by 32 ceramists who have fired their work in Gustin's Japanese-style *anagama* kiln in South Dartmouth, MA.

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In Japanese, *anagama* means “cave kiln.” These wood-fired tunnel kilns arrived in the far east in the fifth century and operate in much the same way today. After loading hundreds of pieces into the kiln, artists work in shifts to stoke the flames throughout the 10-day firing process.

Over time, the interaction between flame, ash and the minerals of the clay bodies forms a “beautifully unpredictable” natural ash glaze over the pieces. None are comparable to those fired in traditional electric or gas-fueled kilns. No two pieces are ever alike.

Highfield’s collaboration with the internationally-celebrated College Women’s Association of Japan (CWAJ) continues with *Earthly Delights: Selections from the 61st CWAJ Print Show* through September 3. Find mischievous rabbits, colorful birds, an oversized dandelion on the cusp of a seedpod explosion and other “Earthly Delights” in this collection which celebrates Highfield’s Gardens Initiative. These prints showcase a diversity of printmaking techniques that the Japanese have mastered. All prints are for sale.

While the ceramists and print artists are pushing the boundaries of art *inside*, ten other artists have pushed their creativity right out of their studio doors and into the most unexpected places at Highfield. On Highfield’s *Out of the Box! Art and Science Walk* on display through September 3rd, visitors will find unexpected marvels, including a whimsical *Botanical Fainting Couch* created by Sarah Peters, a sea of terra cotta fish in *Migration: Highfield* created by Nancy Train Smith, a 10’ stainless steel *Pollinate* by Nancy Selvage, and *TumbleStar* by Kate Cheney Chappell, a set of three 6-foot wide steel and acrylic paint sculptures nestled in the trees near the West Garden.

The Dome at Highfield, located behind Highfield Hall through October 15, is a collaborative project between The Dome at Woods Hole and Highfield Hall. Through exploratory educational programs, social events and communal gatherings *The Dome at Highfield* will create opportunities for visitors to experience how the interaction of art, environment, design and technology will come together at The Dome’s future permanent home in Woods Hole.

Located along the Beech Tree Path, visitors will discover the newest addition to the Highfield grounds, the Musical Garden bringing art, music, and nature together in perfect harmony.

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The five-instrument ensemble includes seven chimes ranging in height from 7 to 9 feet and an imbarimba, a pentatonic instrument that delivers resonating sounds and combines elements of two African classics – the marimba (a resonated xylophone) and kalimba (a thumb piano). Created by Grammy award-winner Richard Cooke, the musical instruments are perfectly pitched for all ages to enjoy improvisational play, solo or in a group.

As part of Highfield’s mission to educate about the arts and science, visitors are invited to visit the Education Room which will be open through September 3rd with hands-on activities and interactive displays.

Highfield Hall & Gardens, the magnificent Victorian mansion located in the heart of Falmouth, is a unique combination of historic home, expansive gardens and trails, and a vibrant cultural center. Built in 1878 as the summer home for Boston’s Beebe family, the mansion sits on 5.5 pristine acres surrounded by nearly 400 acres of conservation land and public walking trails. While there’s plenty of history within these glorious old walls, Highfield Hall & Gardens is not your typical historic estate. Highfield Hall offers world-class music, international art exhibitions, culinary classes and family programs. Expect the unexpected!

Highfield Hall is open April 15 through October 31 with year-round special events. Hours are Tuesday–Friday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Admission is \$8 adults, \$5 seniors, and free for members, children and active military. In July and August, admission is free during Free Friday nights from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The gardens and grounds are open daily year-round from dawn to dusk free of charge. Highfield Hall is wheelchair accessible and handicapped parking is available. For more information, visit highfield.org or call 508-495-1878 x2.

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