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The Times of Trenton

# **Fine Arts: Celebrate springtime at D&R Greenway exhibit, ‘Space to Dream: Nature and Creative Freedom’**

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"Space To Dream: Nature and Creative Freedom" exhibition at D & R Greenway Land Trusts, Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton, through May 27. Featured in the exhibit is artist Moss Freedman's large painting, "Crested Penguin" who stands balanced on a rock amid splashing water, rising peaks and curling, sailing clouds as he surveys the exciting world around him. Courtesy

**By Janet Purcell | For The Times of Trenton**

D&R Greenway Land Trust has preserved over 22,000 acres of land and 44 miles of trails throughout central New Jersey since 1989. It is also a longtime supporter of the arts in this region offering exhibits that not only celebrate art, but also educate visitors about the waters and wildlife, the land, flora and fauna to be found here.

And now it's springtime! It's time to shake off our long confinement and step out into the beauty that surrounds us. A great first stop on what promises to be a wondrous walk is the "Space To Dream" exhibit at D&R Greenway.

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In this current exhibit, D&R's yearlong fellow and Princeton University graduate Ayame Whitfield curated works by regional artists Sean Carney, Susan DeConcini, Moss Freedman, Kate Graves, Erica Harney, Ting Ting Hu, Melanie Lopez, Leni Paquet-Morante, Charles David Viera and Tricia Zimic. It is divided into three themed galleries: On the Water, Within the City, and In the Wild.

You might want to start off your visit with some quiet time in D&R's peaceful Greenway Meadows before going inside the historic Johnson Education Center restored barn and beginning the exhibit in the In The Wild gallery with a welcome by artist Moss

Freedman's large painting, "Crested Penguin" who stands balanced on a rock amid splashing water, rising peaks and curling, sailing clouds as he surveys the exciting world around him.

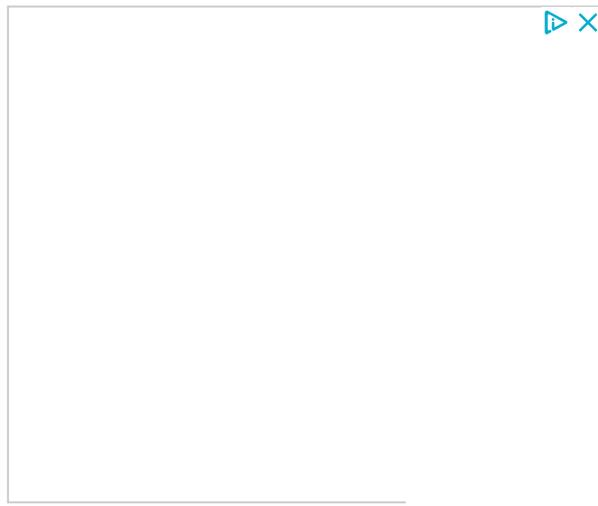
With a smile in your heart you can then settle in and enjoy a Ting Ting Hsu's oil painting, "Koi Fish" that swim among colorful maple leaves. This is a tempting tease of this artist's larger collection of paintings in an upstairs gallery that await you. In those, "The Pond's Movement," as in this painting, his brush moves with the flow of light on the water, the graceful sway and bending of leaves and stems of water foliage that move in the slow rhythm of dancers.

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Accompanying Ting Ting Hsu's Koi and Freedman's penguin and his "Many Banded Aracari" in the downstairs gallery is Melanie Lopez' capture of a Guatemala sunset as a peach-toned sky settles quietly behind purple mountains. And a series of Erica Harney's oil and acrylic paintings on circular panels which take viewers into a spring green orchard and along a path of happy daffodils that leads to an open field of yellow and a green tree-lined horizon. Harney's experience as a scenic painter for theater enhances these paintings that will draw you in.

Moving along on your wondrous walk, you can join Charles David Viera in the upstairs Within The City gallery with his whimsical pastel paintings of dog walkers as the short-leashed pups stride happily along amid the legs and shoe-shod feet of their humans. You can walk with them along city streets enjoying the signs of spring emerging in Kate Graves' watercolors "Roebing '57" and "Hamilton Ave," or go with her to "Marine Terminal Park" and watch the water rippling by in her archival print capturing the tree-lined walk.

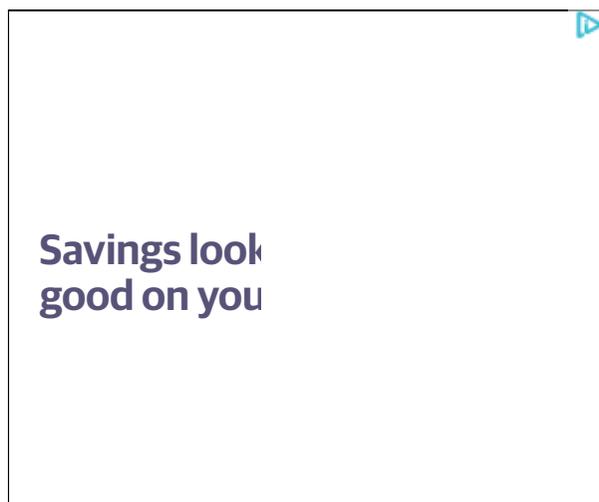
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As exhibit didactics point out “Even in the busiest metropolis, nature finds a way to thrive.” You’ll find that in Sean Carney’s many Minwax stain and Dremel on wood meticulous renderings such as “Reason To Believe.” In this, one gloriously leafed tree casts a lacy shadow pattern on a row of shops as it reaches up into a sky of matchless beauty. And in “Centerville Sky” be sure to look into that sparkling expanse above the stately home that stands behind a precisely trimmed spring green hedge.

Tricia Zimic brings a note of stark reality into the light-hearted works in this section of the exhibit with her 60”x40” painting “Uprising” showing a pack of coyotes rushing in from the wild onto a city street past a graffiti wall and through discarded detritus of cans and plastic bottles. And in “Gangsta Extirpated” she confronts visitors with a lone grey wolf, obviously starving and thirsty, standing on pavement looking and directly at us as if reminding us that while we are enjoying the promise of spring, we need to be aware of the wildlife that we are crowding out of their natural habitats.

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Keeping that in mind, you can cross over the bridge in the barn to the large On The Water gallery space and metaphorically dive in. Here you can enjoy the roll and dip, swell and swish, the sparkling effervescence of Susan DeConcini's watercolors. Or you can look deep into a creek, a tide pool or even a puddle or pothole as portrayed by Leni Paquet-Morante and perhaps see the sky reflected, a stone glimmering, a leaf floating. You can enjoy her small ink drawing of a "Fallen Leaf" or an expansive view of a "Snag in a Slow Run."

D&R Greenway's CEO Linda Mead happily invites the public on this spring walk through "this magic new exhibit as we celebrate spring and the ability to share our gallery once again."

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## IF YOU GO:

- **WHAT:** Space To Dream: Nature and Creative Freedom
- **WHERE:** D & R Greenway Land Trusts, Johnson Education Center, One Preservation Place, Princeton
- **WHEN:** Through May 27. Hours: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays; also open Saturday, May 7, noon to 4 p.m. Opening reception April 29, 4:30 to 6 p.m. RSVP [here](#) for reception.
- **CONTACT:** 609-924-4646. [www.drgreenway.org](http://www.drgreenway.org).

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