

# Curating Art in A Conservation-based Environment: A Study of Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival

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## Abstract

Why does Guandu Nature Park, an important habitat for migratory birds and a wetland reserve in Taipei City, decide to integrate art into its practice to achieve the conservation goals? At first, Guandu Nature Park is established by a bottom-up, non-governmental force due to the awareness of the imbalance relationship between human and nature. The Park's 10-year experience of organizing Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival, on the other hand, has inspired the Park to re-examine its own value from a different perspective.

This paper reviews the 10-year curatorial process of Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival, analyzing how the curatorial statements, themes, or event forms were selected, in order to reflect Guandu Nature Park's mission of environmental protection. How can artists develop innovative artistic thinking or practice while working in an environmental conservation site like Guandu Nature Park? By introducing art and involving public participation, it not only helps Guandu Nature Park to re-discover local resources and strengthen the connections to Guandu area but also inspires it to find new approaches to creating an emotional link with its audiences and reinforcing their local identities through the power of art.

In recent years, Environmental Art has become a growing trend in Taiwan and has been realized in different ways such as exhibition, artist-in-residencies or art festival. How to implement these art actions closely within local contexts will be a key to the development of this trend. This paper will put emphasis on the way art converses with the ecological conservation value of Guandu Nature Park.

Keywords: Environmental Art, Nature Art, Environmental Education, Wetland Center, Guandu