

For immediate release

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Patterson Clark: *Edicole* April 16 – July 3, 2015

Reston, VA: The Greater Reston Arts Center is pleased to present *Patterson Clark: Edicole*, an exhibition exploring a new series of “weed shrines” that encase a print, or a natural object, in elaborate constructions created entirely of hand-harvested invasive woods. Clark’s exhibition will also include new, large-scale woodcuts that blend natural themes with historic religious iconography. *Edicole* will run from April 16 – July 3, 2015, at the gallery, located at the Reston Town Center.

Patterson Clark, author and illustrator of The Washington Post’s *Urban Jungle* natural history column, creates works that are intimately connected to the natural environment. Clark’s papers, prints, inks, and frames are all sourced from local invasive plant species, many of which are harvested from Whitehaven Park in D.C, which borders the artist’s home. After gaining a permit from the National Park Service to remove invasives, Clark began to collect non-native species such as Irish ivy, Multiflora Rose, garlic mustard, and bush honeysuckle.

At some point his approach shifted from one of eradication to one of repurposing, a kind of natural upcycling. Clark experimented with his harvested materials to coax textured paper, inks in a remarkable array of colors, and intricate frames for his art.

Perhaps best known for his exquisite prints, Clark has recently been creating “weed shrines” that encase a print, or a natural object, in an elaborate, multifaceted frame constructed entirely of invasive woods. This exhibition presents an intimate selection of Clark’s recent *edicole*. According to the artist, “The pieces will be inspired by Italian edicole, plural for edicola, a small shrine designed to house a sacred element. Edicola is also the term used for newsstand. These pieces will be blending both meanings, sanctifying the common, the disposable, the mass-produced, the printed, the weed.”

Patterson Clark: *Edicole* will share space in the GRACE gallery with a photographic exhibition documenting the work of artist Patrick Dougherty, an artist who shares Clark’s affinity for natural materials. Dougherty’s site-specific sculptural installation for Reston Town Square Park, just outside the gallery, will be in progress during the month of April.

GreaterRestonArtsCenter

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