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October 1, 2014

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Office of Cultural Affairs  
CITY OF DALLAS



Bath House  
CULTURAL CENTER

***Artists see nature as a source of creativity in new show at the White Rock Lake Museum***

The Bath House Cultural Center and the White Rock Lake Museum present

**The Art of Nature:  
Recent Artwork by Silvia Thornton and Anne Neal**

October 11, 2014-January 31, 2015

**Opening Reception with the Artists:** Sunday, October 12, 2014 (5-7 PM)

**Reception 2:**  
Saturday, December 6, 2014 (7-9 PM)

Free and open to the public

DALLAS - The White Rock Lake Museum (located inside the Bath House Cultural Center) presents *The Art of Nature*, a mixed media art exhibition that features recent works by **Silvia Thornton** and **Anne Neal**. The exhibition runs from October 11, 2014 to January 31, 2015. An opening reception with the artist will be held on Sunday, October 12, from 5 to 7 PM. A second reception with the artists will take place on Saturday, December 6, from 7 to 9 PM. The exhibition and reception are free and open to the public.

The *Art of Nature* exhibition pays homage to nature by exploring the organic forms and processes selected by the two artists to create their works of art. The art explores the creative potential of natural materials and serves as a form of expression that the artists

use to communicate ideas that come from their life experiences, love of art, and unlimited imagination.

The works in this exhibition show what happens when an artist's inspiration is applied to gifts from nature and earth. Silvia and Anne incorporate, among other natural materials, beeswax, linseed oil, tree resin, glass, papers, wood, metals, micas, leaves, twigs, and sea corals in their work. While some of the pieces in this show are made with materials from nature that have been repurposed or altered in some artistic way to support their new artistic manifestation, many of the works also include unaltered natural elements that are blended with encaustic painting and fused glass.

**Silvia Thornton** is a mixed-media artist who selectively assembles and fuses images. She layers colors with her papers, etchings, and wax, creating a delicate blend into a cohesive whole. Whether it is realism, abstraction, or a combination of these styles, her fascination with the process allows the work to evolve, ignited by the creative undertaking and the artist's soul.

Inherent in Silvia's art is an imaginative scope, a bridge between the visual and the felt sense of things. Silvia's emotional connection to her environments stems from experiences lived during her formative years. She grew up in the dramatic and diverse lush ecosystem of the St. John's River near St. Augustine, Florida, and the contrasting sparse landscape at the foot of the Superstition Mountains in Arizona.

Silvia often cites her father— an artist who painted sets for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in Tampa, Florida—as a huge influence in her desire to become an artist. She cannot remember a time when art was not part of her life. Her artistic influences are based on her vast fascination with art in history and on her everyday experiences. It is ultimately her emotional response to those influences that drives the artist to create her extraordinary works of art.

After successful careers in science and finance, **Anne Neal** took an opportunity to leave the left-brained world and pursue her creative instincts. Since 2002, she has created and exhibited work in metal sculpture, stone carving, jewelry, figurative sculpture, pottery, painting, and art glass. Kiln-formed art glass is Anne's primary medium. She uses her knowledge from experimenting with other media to combine wood, metals, fibers, and organic materials with glass and create one-of-a-kind glass art. The dynamism and expressiveness of her art, together with the inherent beauty of the materials and Anne's unique vision, results in truly engaging experience for the viewer of her work.

When asked what draws her to sculpting with glass, Ann states: "Glass fascinates me because the fragility of glass resists efforts to harness and direct it into a sculptural form yet still retain its sparkling light and delicate beauty. My work is all done with kilns so the technical methods available to me to sculpt glass are limited to my ability to manipulate the glass with temperature and gravity. I am drawn to the technical challenges I find in working with glass as a three-dimensional medium, especially since I experiment with mixing other media with glass. I have found it particularly rewarding to capture nature's beauty in glass and to incorporate unaltered natural materials with glass. I am inspired by organic forms and textiles, both of which are irregular, can drape, and exhibit fluidity. As a Libra, I am always striving for balance and equilibrium. My desire

to create balance out of imbalance is satisfied when I can use a flat stiff material to create organic fluid forms.”

Please visit [www.bathhousecultural.com](http://www.bathhousecultural.com) for more information about the Bath House Cultural Center.

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### **About the White Rock Lake Museum**

The Bath House Cultural Center is the home of the White Rock Lake Museum. The museum’s mission is to preserve and present the human and natural history of White Rock Lake Park and its surrounding environment. The White Rock Lake Museum was inaugurated in September of 2004.

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### **Press Photographs:**

To download print-resolution (300 dpi) JPEG press photographs of this exhibition, please visit the online Press Room at <http://www.bathhousemedia.com>

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**The Bath House Cultural Center** is a division of the City of Dallas Office of Cultural Affairs. The center is dedicated to fostering the growth, development and quality of multi-cultural arts within the City of Dallas. The center emphasizes innovating visual and performing arts as well as other multi-discipline events throughout the year. Funding for the Bath House Cultural Center is provided by the City of Dallas, with additional support from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

### **LOCATION AND HOURS:**

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The Bath House Cultural Center is located on the eastern shore of White Rock Lake at the end of Northcliff Dr. off of Buckner Blvd. at **521 E. Lawther, Dallas, TX 75218**. Hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday, 12:00 noon to 6:00 PM. The center is open until 10:00 PM on nights with theatre performances. For general information about cultural programs at the Bath House Cultural Center, please call (214) 670-8749 or visit the center’s website at <http://www.bathhousecultural.com/>