

HUNTSVILLE BOTANICAL GARDEN

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[LINK TO PHOTOS](#)

World-renowned artist Thomas Dambo to give exclusive Artist Talk at Huntsville Botanical Garden

HUNTSVILLE, Ala. (Feb. 3, 2025) – The artist behind Huntsville’s newest—and largest—resident is coming to the Garden! On Wednesday, February 19, at 7 p.m., internationally acclaimed artist Thomas Dambo will take the stage at Huntsville Botanical Garden (HBG) for an exclusive Artist Talk. This special event is an opportunity for the public to hear directly from Dambo about his artistic process, passion for sustainability, and the creation of Mama Zelda, the towering centerpiece of HBG’s newest permanent exhibit, the Mother Earth Troll Garden—a one-of-a-kind destination in the region.

A world-renowned Danish artist, Dambo is best known for his larger-than-life trolls—colossal sculptures crafted from recycled and locally sourced materials that blend seamlessly into the landscape. His works, found in locations across the globe, weave together folklore, environmental conservation, and community engagement. Mama Zelda, an 18-foot-tall seated troll, is a permanent installation at HBG, with plant materials that will grow into the surrounding maze over time.

“This installation is unlike anything else in the Southeast,” said HBG CEO Susan Wagner. “The Mother Earth Troll Garden is not just a garden—it’s an immersive experience that invites visitors to engage with nature, art, and storytelling in a completely unique way.”

During his talk, Dambo will share the inspiration behind Mama Zelda and the vision for her living maze, and the role of sustainability in his art. He will also discuss his dedication to recycled art projects, highlighting how discarded materials can be transformed into something extraordinary—a message that aligns closely with HBG’s mission to connect people to plants and promote environmental stewardship.

This event is expected to draw nature lovers, art enthusiasts, and sustainability advocates alike. This artist talk is available and open to the public, thanks in part to the Alabama State Council on the Arts. Seating for this event is limited and registration is required. Guests can register at hsvbg.org/calendar-event/artist-talk.

The Mother Earth Troll Garden at Huntsville Botanical Garden will open to the public on April 1, 2025. For more information about the Mother Earth Troll Garden, visit <https://hsvbg.org/visit/exhibits/troll-garden/>. To learn more about Thomas Dambo, visit thomasdambo.com.

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About Huntsville Botanical Garden

Huntsville Botanical Garden is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that exists to connect people to plants in order to support a healthier quality of life for the region. Open year-round, the Garden contains diverse ecosystems to explore within its 118 acres. From grassy meadows to woodland paths, aquatic habitats to stunning floral collections, the Garden invites guests of all ages to discover the beauty and wonder of the natural environment. For more information, visit hsvbg.org.

About Thomas Dambo

Thomas Dambo's magical troll universe has 127 trolls in 17 countries worldwide, all made from recycled materials. Dambo's awe-inspiring fairytales and sculptures captivate an audience, young and old who travel the globe hunting for the hidden giants. Huntsville Botanical Garden will be debuting one of Thomas Dambo's world-renowned trolls in 2025.