

From the community: Local Artists Enriching Life at Brushwood Center



Instructor and curator, Heeyoung Kim (far left), with her botanical art students at the opening of their art exhibit, "Enriching Life at Brushwood Center", on 1/8/17. (Posted by Laura Fruhauff, Community Contributor)

By **Community Contributor Laura Fruhauff**

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On January 8th, 250 art and nature lovers flocked to Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods to see "Enriching Life at Brushwood Center," the latest art exhibit to grace the historic walls of the nonprofit. The exhibition features the work of 17 local artists, along with their instructor-and the exhibition's curator-renowned botanical artist, Heeyoung Kim.

The art opening gave the public a chance to meet the artists, ask questions about their work, and hear about their creative journeys from medical, academic, and business professionals, to recognized and awarded artists. There is a unique beauty in "Enriching Life at Brushwood Center" and it extends past the aesthetic loveliness of the displayed artwork. The exhibit is a collection of masterpieces created by people who, in some cases, were unaware of how deep their creative talents ran. Embodying this uniqueness is the story of Heeyoung Kim-the very first and only living artist featured in Chicago's prominent Joel Oppenheimer Gallery. Kim did not intensively hone her artistic skills until she was 43-when she took her first watercolor painting class in 2007.

Just a decade later, she is a widely celebrated professional botanical artist, teaching classes, curating art exhibits, and featuring prominently in exhibitions near and far.

Kim's story encourages the students who take her classes-and find themselves traveling the same unexpected road to artistic mastery. Thus, "Enriching Life at Brushwood Center" is a story of how the 18 featured artists enriched their own lives through their newfound dedication to studying art under Brushwood Center's copper-accented roof.

See "Enriching Life at Brushwood Center" until February 27th, 2017.

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods is located at 21850 N. Riverwoods Rd. Riverwoods, IL 60015.

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