This exhibition comes to us from the OSilas Gallery, Concordia College, N.Y., and includes artwork that explores themes and metaphors of nature and the natural environment. Why should metaphors in nature appeal to artists? Consider the tree.

- Tree metaphors refer to living in a body or the Earth.
- Trees are static, stable objects. Someone connected to a community is “rooted” there, just as a sturdy friend’s feet are “planted” on the ground.
- The area from our neck to our pelvis is our “trunk.”
- Someone reliable is “solid as an oak,” and someone who is exploring new areas is “branching out.”

Let’s see how this vibrant group of artists have built and created environments that are grounded in the way we experience nature and the world around us.

CONTACT BETH KRUMHOLZ, Education Curator, at bkrumholz@alb.edu or (610) 921-7776 to schedule a group tour, to sign-up for programs, and for more great ideas!

MONDAYS, 4 p.m., Experimental Afterschool Art Lab, $5 per session/child
SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 10:30 a.m.-noon, Art Market for Families and Kids. Make your own miniature terrariums; Local artist Darya Gardecki, owner of Dantelion, a handmade toy company, will conduct a workshop on making a butterfly book; Albright student Tyler Butler will conduct a tour of the greenhouse here on campus – see exotic flora from around the world.
MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 18-22 AND 25-29, 10 a.m.-noon, Write Your Own Script, a visual art and theatre summer camp program

SUGGESTED READING
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
The Earth and I by Frank Asch
The Little Yellow Leaf by Carin Berger
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

With a simple process, kids can make a rock collection come to life. Before you start painting, sketch out a plan with pencil on paper. When it’s time to paint the rocks, both tempera and acrylic paints work well; tempera looks chalkier but any messes wash off easily. Acrylic paint has a glossy finish. Make the rocks into any animal that the shape suggests.

Create do-it-yourself coloring pages that can be colored in the gallery or taken home with you. Imagine a story about your doodle-bug and write that down, too!

**Rock, Paper, Scissors**

**Doodle Bugs**
This project is good for any season. Take a journal and pencil on your next walk outside this spring, and write down what you see along your journey—“two robins in the maple tree, a pink tulip by the sculpture”—be sure to write down where you saw things. Draw a picture, then come back in the summer and winter to see how different things look.

As the leaves begin to fall this autumn, pick up these treasures from nature and make bracelets or pressings. As you find interesting objects, attach them to a tape bracelet (the sticky side is on the outside). Take a beautiful, fallen leaf and press it between the pages of a book for a simple and free bookmark!

Using giant strips of craft paper, each person in the group should come up with a single line of poetry inspired by the works in the gallery. Put them together in many different configurations to see how the meaning changes. Read aloud to share.

**Perpetual Poetry**

**THE TREES**
by Philip Larkin

The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said:
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.
Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too.
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.
Yet still the unavailing castles thresh
In full-grown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.

**Seedling Necklace**

Seeds can be sprouted and grown in different ways. Here are two examples:

1. To make a seedling necklace place a few small seeds into a damp cotton ball. Place into a mini Ziplock bag. Punch a hole in the bag and place onto a string to wear. The heat from your body will sprout the seed! Notice how long it takes for that to happen. Then, plant your seedlings.

2. Using recycled paper, kids can grow a tiny garden right inside of an egg carton. Plant seeds according to package instructions in an egg carton and leave on a sunny windowsill where they can be watered easily. The first leaves to sprout will be the cotyledons or seed leaves, which supply nutrients to the young plant until the first true leaves (resembling those of the parent plant) appear. When plants have grown to about three inches and have at least two sets of true leaves, they are ready to be transplanted to the garden.