



About Town

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Palm Beach Post

USA TODAY NETWORK

Mounts comes alive with LEGO creatures

Ever play with LEGO bricks as a kid? I did and thought I was pretty creative with them. I had a blast making everything from animals, to bridges, to cars, airplanes, rockets, robots and more.

This is way more than that.

This is taking something so simple and turning it into something truly amazing and inspiring.

Think of it as, there are bazillions (or more, probably, I don't know) of atoms floating around at all times — but to actually split one? That's rare.

That's pretty much what Sean Kenney has done with LEGO bricks in his newest exhibition "Nature POP!"

Opening on Saturday at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach, this exhibition will feature more than 40 of Kenny's incredible sculptures made from more than 800,000 LEGO pieces.

The sculptures, which explore the beauty of nature through highly-stylized, colorful displays, will stand in striking contrast with their surroundings.

Produced by Imagine Exhibitions, "Nature POP!" blends art, science, and innovation in the display of the artist's newest, never-before-seen sculptures.

Through his use of vibrant colors and bold style, Kenney is pushing the boundaries of the medium in his latest exhibition.

Inspired by the pop art movement, his work on "Nature POP!" plays on that movement's principles by blurring the boundaries between austere and the everyday, and draws from a belief that everything is interconnected.

These intricate sculptures will invite guests to consider the relationships

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that exist in nature from the delicate balances of predator and prey, to the commonalities between species as they care for and nurture their young and even the impact humans have on the natural world.

Most importantly, the exhibition allows visitors to appreciate both nature and the sculptures as something beautiful, and to hopefully inspire them to go home and create something wonderful themselves.

Presenting a playful spin on traditional sculptural art, Nature POP! is an accessible experience for all ages.

"We are very excited to welcome Sean Kenney back to the Garden to debut his new exhibition in Florida," said Rochelle Wolberg, curator-director for Mounts Botanical Garden. "Nature POP! is the perfect way to launch the new year and is guaranteed to thrill visitors of all ages. It highlights our Season of Awe and Wonder."

Kenney's exhibition "Nature Connects" was on display from November 2015 to February 2016 at the garden and featured 14 larger-than-life-sized sculptures.

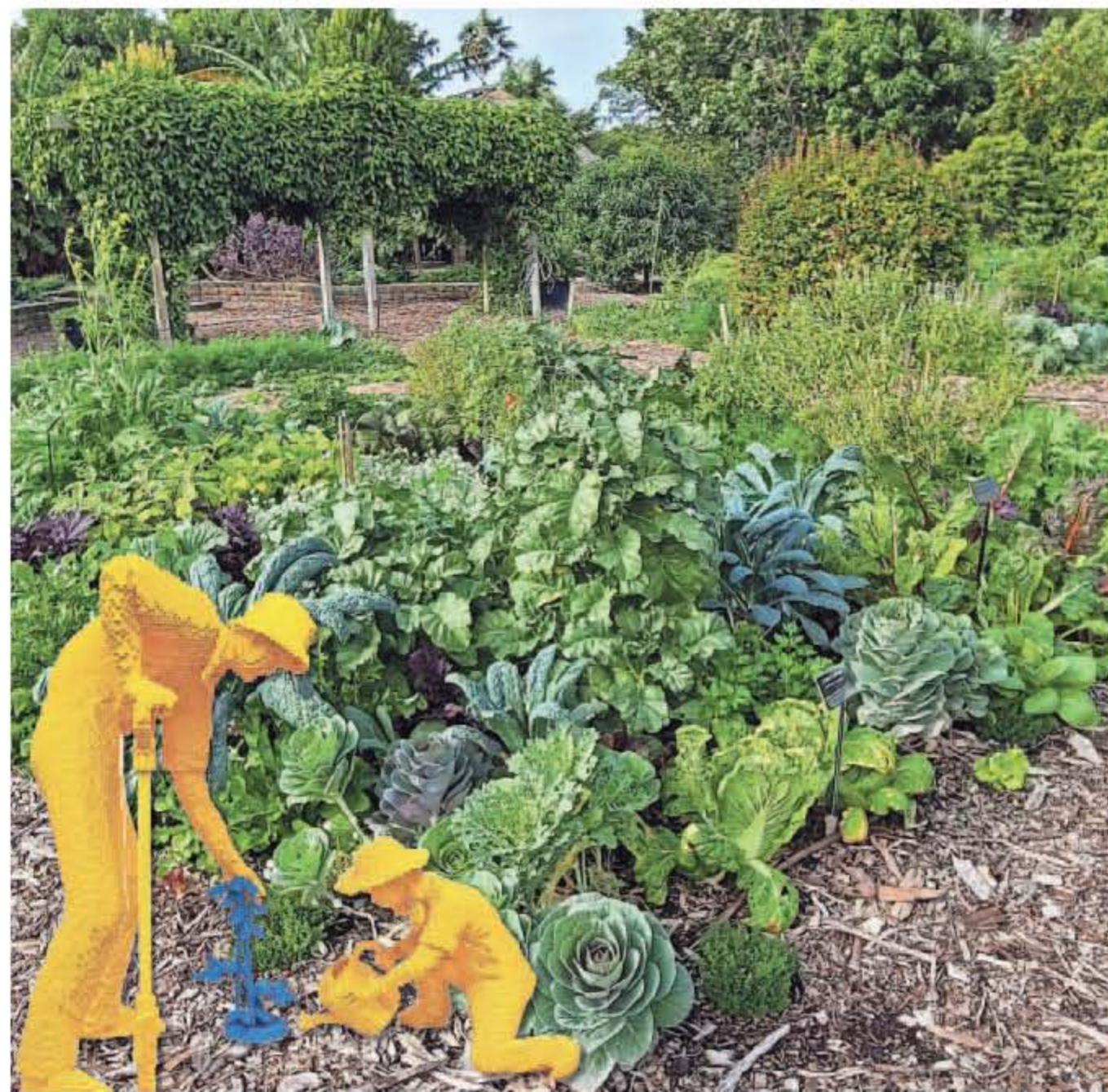
Though he won't be on hand when "Nature POP!" opens Saturday, he will be stopping by the garden on March 2.

Considered one of the leading ex-



Violinist Junko Ohtsu, along with cellist Evelyn Elsing and pianist Collette Valentine, will perform works by Mexican composers Carlos Chávez and Manuel Maria Ponce at the Norton Museum of Art.

perts in his medium and a founding member several programs that support this emerging art form, Kenney has been an official partner with The LEGO group and works every day at his studio in Brooklyn. In addition to creating amazing works, he has also authored nine children's books. For information,



Featuring more than 40 different, Sean Kenney's newest exhibition, "Nature POP!" opens Saturday and runs through May 1 at Mounts Botanical Garden in West Palm Beach. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

visit www.seankenney.com

Lead sponsor for Nature POP! is the Hanley Foundation. Select sculptures and murals are sponsored by Renée Rotta, Lewis Pollack and Iggy, and by an anonymous donor.

"We are so delighted to sponsor this exciting exhibit," said Jan Cairnes, CEO for Hanley Foundation. "We hope families will come together to enjoy this incredible opportunity to connect with nature and connect as a family. Family time is time well spent."

What: "Nature POP!" by LEGO artist Sean Kenney

Where: Mounts Botanical Garden, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach

When: Opens Saturday and runs through May 1 with viewing times 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Cost: Mounts members free; adults \$15; seniors (65 and older), college students and military \$12; ages 6 to 17 \$7; children five and under free.

Information: www.mounts.org

Norton's Mexican experience includes chamber music concert

In celebration of the exhibition of Mexican modern art currently on view, violinist Junko Ohtsu returns to the Norton to perform with cellist Evelyn Elsing and pianist Colette Valentine.

The program will feature the beautiful, but rarely performed, music of Mexican composers Carlos Chávez and Manuel Maria Ponce.

These composers were contemporaries of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera. Chavez even lived with painter Rufino Tamayo in New York City for a time.

Like their contemporaries, both composers championed Mexican folk traditions while exploring classical and modern styles in their music, as well.

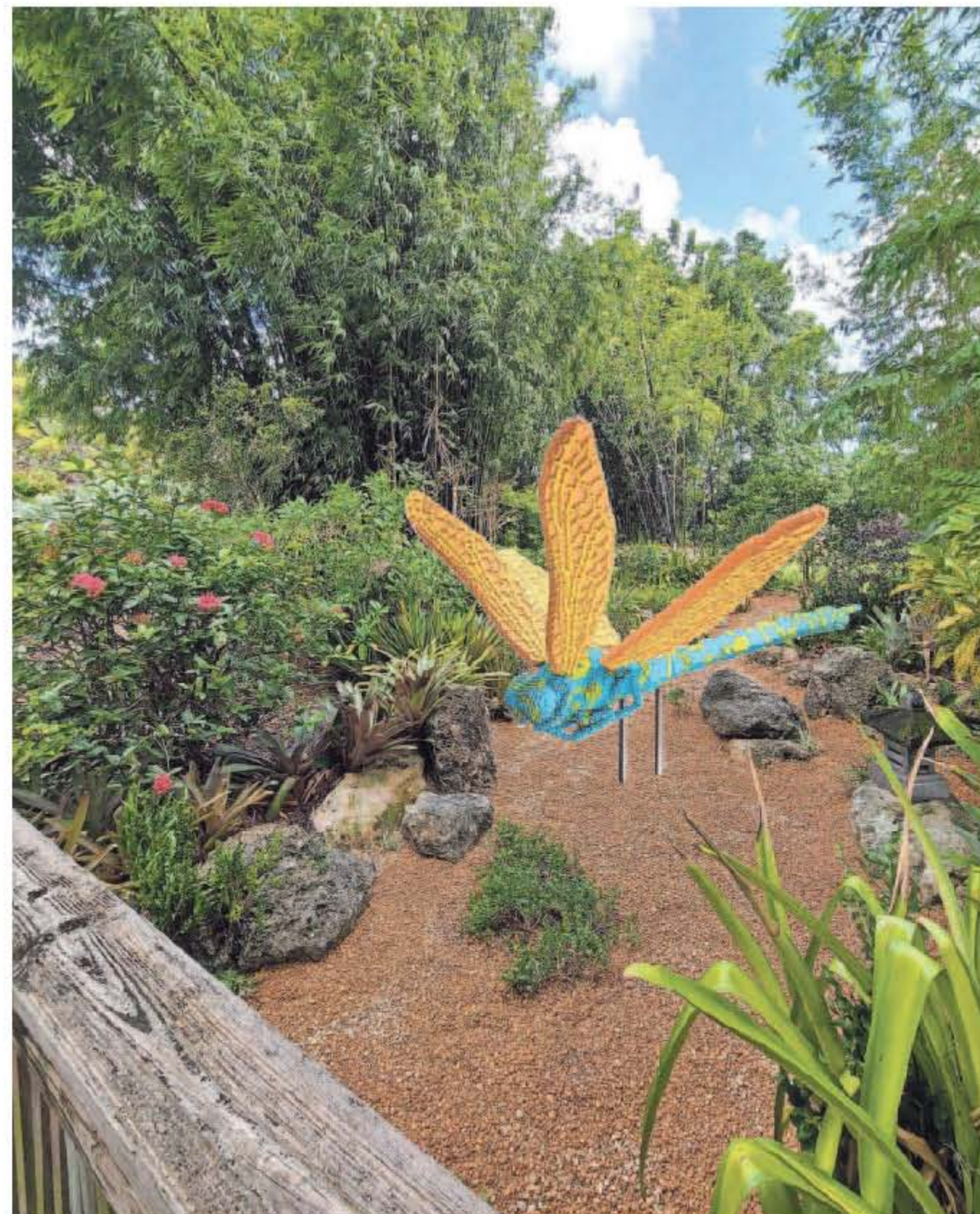
What: Chamber Music

Where: The Norton Museum of Art, 1450 S. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach

When: 6 p.m. Monday

Cost: members \$10, nonmembers \$15

Information: www.norton.org



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THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

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