



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Photographs by Amanda Sauer at Adkins Arboretum



*Giant Willow Oak (with woman circling), 2020*  
archival pigment print on Epson Legacy Platine paper  
20" x 16"

**(RIDGLEY, MD—May 5, 2026)**

Adkins Arboretum presents *Giant Willow Oak/One Year Orbit*, an exhibition of photographs by Amanda Sauer that explores observation and ecological change through the artist's continuous study of a single willow oak tree. On display through June 26th, the exhibit offers a quiet but powerful meditation on the passage of time. A reception to meet the artist will be held on June 6th from 2–4 pm.

At the center of *One Year Orbit* is a meticulous grid of 48 gelatin silver prints, depicting photographic views slowly circling one of the oldest and largest trees in Washington, DC. The installation maps the

passage of time across a full year, with movement around the tree mapped horizontally and seasonal change vertically. Seen at a distance, the grid reads as a unified whole; up close, it reveals subtle shifts in light and form.

Sauer works with a 4x5 large format view camera and analog darkroom processes, developing each negative and print by hand. She embraces a deliberately slow process that mirrors the time spent documenting her subject. The project began in 2018 and evolved through sustained observation and repeated visits over the course of 5 years, until the tree was felled due to experiencing extreme damage in 2023. Sauer spent hours at a time with the willow oak, often returning without making an image if conditions were not right. Reflecting on the years-long process behind the project, Sauer notes: “The reward was the time spent with the tree”.

In addition to the darkroom-based grid, the exhibition includes archival digital prints on fine art paper, extending the work at a larger scale and using different surfaces such as bamboo washi paper. These prints take advantage of digital processes that can exceed the size limitations of darkroom printing, offering another way to engage with the photographs.

A companion artist book, displayed alongside the grid, provides yet another way of experiencing time. While the installation presents an entire year at once, the book unfolds sequentially, allowing viewers to move through at their own pace, engaging in a personal encounter with the work.

*One Year Orbit* ultimately asks viewers to reconsider their relationship to the natural world. By focusing deeply on a single tree over an extended period, Sauer reveals the richness of slow observation and the constant, often imperceptible changes unfolding in our environment.

Amanda Sauer is a photographer and book artist whose work has been widely exhibited and collected, including by the Museum of Modern Art, the Getty, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Her recent monograph, *Giant Willow Oak* (L'Artiere Edizioni, 2025), continues her exploration of time, ecology, and photographic practice. She is a professor at Northern Virginia Community College and lives in Washington, DC.

This show is part of Adkins Arboretum's ongoing exhibition series highlighting regional artists whose work engages with natural themes. The Arboretum, located at 12610 Eveland Road near Tuckahoe State Park in Ridgely, is a 400-acre native garden and preserve offering exceptional experiences in nature.

A 400-acre native garden and preserve, Adkins Arboretum provides exceptional experiences in nature to promote environmental stewardship.

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