



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***TROLLS: Save the Humans* by Thomas Dambo to Open  
at Memphis Botanic Garden Presented by International Paper**

**A whimsical outdoor art exhibition made of all reclaimed wood exploring folklore, poetry, and the human relationship to nature is set to open on February 1, 2025.**

**Memphis, TN – September 4, 2024** –*Thomas Dambo’s TROLLS: Save the Humans* is set to open at Memphis Botanic Garden from February 1, 2025 to May 21, 2025. This exhibition, featuring six of Thomas Dambo’s signature folklore-inspired troll sculptures built from reclaimed materials, will amaze and delight visitors of all ages. Like many of Dambo’s sculptures, each troll has been created from reclaimed wood, highlighting the artist’s passion as a recycling art activist. His vision is to create art that will inspire people to explore and create new adventures in nature while demonstrating that trash can be turned into something beautiful and unique.

Produced by Imagine Exhibitions in collaboration with the artist, *TROLLS: Save the Humans* blends art, nature, and messages of sustainability in a unique outdoor art installation. Known for his ability to make larger-than-life sized troll sculptures from reclaimed wood and other natural found materials, *TROLLS: Save the Humans* is Thomas Dambo’s latest exploration in crafting giant trolls with an environmental call. In this new traveling exhibition, Dambo tells an evolved story of listening and tending to nature, further building on the Nordic-inspired tales and artist-made poems surrounding the other 101 larger-than-life trolls that co-exist in various locations around the world, including Denmark, US, France, Germany, China, South Korea, Chile and more.

*TROLLS: Save the Humans* is the latest chapter in the worldwide sculpture fairytale, written by Dambo one installation at a time. In the new installation, six young activist trolls have noticed that humans are disconnected from nature and have started harming the planet. These young trolls set out to help humans learn how to live in harmony with the planet. Full of personality and activism, each troll has a name and plays a distinctive role in the tribe, becoming role models for us humans to learn from. For example, Ronja Redeye, who is the leader of the group, has a voice like whistling leaves in the wind; when she speaks, everyone listens. Another

featured troll is Rosa Sunfinger who places flowers in an improvised flower pot made of a real car, to watch the garden grow. Ibbi Pip is putting up birdhouses while another is listening to the ground.

Most importantly, the exhibition allows visitors to appreciate both nature and the sculptures as something beautiful and may inspire visitors to recycle and rethink and value their own trash. Presenting a playful spin on traditional sculptural art, *TROLLS: Save the Humans* is an accessible experience for all ages.

Tom Zaller, **President and CEO of Imagine Exhibitions** shared, “Imagine Exhibitions is proud to partner with Thomas Dambo to bring the creative vision of *TROLLS: Save the Humans* to Memphis Botanic Garden. We’re delighted to collaborate with Memphis Botanic Garden on this incredible exhibition and to offer a new outdoor exhibition for visitors, bringing another amazing exhibition to Memphis.”

“We cannot wait to introduce the Memphis community to Thomas Dambo's *TROLLS: Save the Humans*. The stories and lessons of these larger-than-life Trolls align perfectly with the mission of the Memphis Botanic Garden to connect people with plants to increase awareness and appreciation of our environment,” said Gina Harris, Director of Education and Events. “Through the generous support of International Paper and our other sponsors, this exhibition will bring our mission to life in a fun and engaging way.”

*TROLLS: Save the Humans* at the Memphis Botanic Garden is presented by International Paper with support from Speer Charitable Trust, HD Pallet Company, Janet Misner, Amanda & Nick Goetze, FedEx, and Thompson Machinery. Additional support is provided by Blue Scope/Varco Pruden and Ben and Kathy Adams.

Admire the colorful creations on display at *Trolls: Save the Humans* for a limited engagement from February 1 to May 21, 2025. More information about the exhibition and related special programming will be released in early 2025.

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### **About Memphis Botanic Garden**

The Memphis Botanic Garden is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to being an exemplary center for horticulture and environmental enrichment. Serving over 40,000 school-aged children annually, and hosting 260,000 visitors each year, Memphis Botanic Garden strives to enhance lives by connecting people with nature, increasing awareness and appreciation of our environment.

### **About the artist Thomas Dambo**

Born in Odense, Denmark in 1979, Artist Thomas Dambo’s mission is to create art that inspires people to explore, have adventures in nature, and show that recycled goods can be turned into something beautiful. Before embarking on the path of building larger-than-life troll sculptures, Thomas led a multi-faceted life that allowed him to express his creativity via music, street art, and scenic design. After graduating from the Kolding Design School in Kolding, Denmark, with a master’s degree in interactive

design, Thomas began his journey of using recycled materials to create colorful art installations, building the foundation for his artwork today. He currently lives and works in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### **About the Trolls**

Dambo is best known for his colossal troll and 'live' as permanent or semi-permanent installations in parks, greenspaces, industrial parks, and in other site-specific locations around the world. Each folklore-inspired sculpture is imbued with expression and character and is built entirely from reclaimed materials. Driven by a mission to inspire people to explore our relationship with the planet, many of Dambo's works have an associated folk tale written by Dambo himself that address the complex problem of our world in a fun and approachable way.

In the Spring of 2018, Dambo unveiled a temporary exhibition of trolls at The Morton Arboretum just outside of Chicago, IL. The exhibition was an enormous success, leading to the garden's two highest attended years in its nearly 100-year history. During the run of the exhibition, 1.26 million people visited the arboretum. Inspired by the enthusiasm of the visitors and compelled to find a way to enable Dambo's work to have a longer lifespan in the spirit of reducing, reusing, and recycling, Imagine Exhibitions is delighted to partner with Dambo to develop this evergreen traveling exhibition.

### **About Imagine Exhibitions**

Atlanta based world leader in narrative-driven, immersive experiences, Imagine Exhibitions, Inc. creates, markets, and operates sophisticated, high-quality experiences for gardens, museums, zoos, brands, venues, and integrated resorts across the globe. From ideation to operation, Imagine's team of industry pioneers draws upon decades of success in the fields of immersive design, storytelling, and entertainment to consistently create and implement memorable and thought-provoking environments. The company's custom experiences deliver focused messaging and serve to increase attendance wherever they are presented.

A global pioneer in traveling entertainment, Imagine Exhibitions has created many internationally recognized exhibitions such as **Harry Potter™: The Exhibition**; **Titanic: The Exhibition**, **The Hunger Games: The Exhibition**, **Angry Birds: The Art & Science Behind a Global Phenomenon**, **Jurassic World: The Exhibition**, and **Downton Abbey: The Exhibition**. Imagine currently presents and operates more than 40 unique exhibitions in museums, science centers, aquariums, integrated resorts, and non-traditional venues worldwide. Imagine also designs, opens, and operates its own venues and creates and implements permanent and semi-permanent museums, brands, and entertainment properties.

For more information, visit [ImagineExhibitions.com](http://ImagineExhibitions.com) or find us on Facebook.

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### **For Images**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/YXeDL1kHnmxWWvE16>