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Innovative Art Exhibition to Shine a Light on Endangered Wildlife

MELBOURNE, Fla., September 17, 2025 — A one-of-a-kind nighttime animal art experience is opening in November at Brevard Zoo. This exhibition promises to take guests on an immersive journey featuring two elaborate art exhibitions located throughout the park combined with digital and virtual reality experiences, all set against an outdoor natural Florida backdrop with special lighting effects. Lights On: A Nighttime Art Experience will run Thursdays to Sundays, November 13, 2025, to January 18, 2026, from 6 to 9 p.m.

"During Lights On, we will ask our guests to step into the story of our world to explore how the futures of endangered species and humans are intertwined," said Andrea Hill, Director of Marketing & Communications at Brevard Zoo. "As guests journey through the art installations, they will have the chance to see themselves not just as spectators but as protectors of our natural world."

The Zoo will act as a backdrop for incredible physical art inspired by the idea of shining a light on species in peril.

"When we shine a light on what's vanishing, we give it a chance to be seen and saved," Hill said.

The exhibition will feature detailed animal portraits of Project Holocene by artist and Lights On creator Russ Ronat. These realistic portraits on display, which include a nearly life-size elephant, will be backlit during with a timed light fading effect based on the endangered status of the species. The more endangered a species is, the more quickly its backlight will fade.

Guests will be able to learn more about each of these species, including their conservation status and ways the community can help them thrive.

In addition, Florida-based artist, German Lemus, will add to the art lineup with 15 special glow-in-the-dark murals featuring African animals as another fun way to enjoy the Zoo at night.

Special digital projections will allow the Zoo to be a part of the art – and give guests incredible experiences with interactive elements, lighting effects and other surprises.

Virtual reality (VR) stations throughout the Zoo will allow guests to feel like they're exploring a coral reef, meeting a herd of elephants and more. These 10 VR experiences will be courtesy of Wildlife Protective Solutions, an international nonprofit whose mission is to use technology for the protection of endangered species and ecosystems.

“These innovative VR experiences will allow guests to connect with wildlife from all over the world – and even some possibly in their own backyard,” Hill said. “We hope these special encounters will create empathy and support for animals and ecosystems all over the world.”

Tickets are now on sale at BrevardZoo.org. Guests can take advantage now of early bird Lights On prices starting at \$40.

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Brevard Zoo is home to more than 800 animals representing 170 species from all across the world. As a not-for-profit organization, it is a leader in the fields of animal wellness, education and conservation. More information is available at www.brevardzoo.org.