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Immersive Art Experience Transforming Brevard Zoo at Night

MELBOURNE, Fla. — A one-of-a-kind nighttime art experience is opening Thursday, November 13 at Brevard Zoo. This exhibition promises to transform Brevard Zoo after dark with over 30 captivating artworks—featuring near life-size illuminated paintings, glow-in-the-dark murals, interactive virtual reality, lighting effects and more.

Lights On: A Nighttime Art Experience will run Thursdays to Sundays, November 13, 2025, to January 18, 2026, from 6 to 9 p.m.

This immersive event will go beyond a traditional art exhibit, inviting visitors to explore the powerful stories of vulnerable species in an inventive celebration of visual art.

“Guests will have a chance to become part of the experience with opportunities to interact with vivid visual installations, engage with nature through technology and enjoy the fun of art in an unexpected, illuminating setting,” said Dr. Brian Ogle, Director of Conservation Learning.

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

“By ‘shining a light,’ or highlighting these species, we hope guests will be inspired to make changes to help protect these vulnerable animals and the places they call home,” Ogle 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 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 12 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.

Tickets are now on sale at BrevardZoo.org.

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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.