

**MINIATURE TREES:
An Exhibition of Forest & Multi-trunk Style Bonsai
March 21- June 21, 2026
The Intriguing Realm of Forest Bonsai
by Bob Hilvers, CBCS Curator**

All bonsai are, at their core, representations of nature. Bonsai, whether stylized, idealized, or virtual replicas of their larger counterparts, are depictions that reflect the diverse tree forms observed in nature. They are aesthetic compositions, employing multiple visual elements intentionally arranged to create harmony, dynamism, or tension in the image. All bonsai involve a combination of design elements, most involve a single trunk, positioned in varying degrees of inclination, accentuated by a particular arrangement of the foliage for a given design, and complimented by a specifically chosen container (pot) to render the desired visual effect.

The theme of “Forests” for our next exhibition is emblematic of a wide range of recognized bonsai “styles” involving multiple trunks that can be arranged as a forest or small grove of individual trees or as a clump with several trunks growing from one root system. Forest bonsai, and all the other multi-trunk bonsai styles are more complex to create and difficult to design due to the increase in visual elements that define the style. Artists are therefore much more challenged to render multi-trunk images that convince our “mind’s eye” that we are beholding a vignette of nature in miniature.

You are invited to experience the “Lilliputian world” of forest bonsai and the fascinating variety of other multiple-trunked bonsai styles that will be on display at the Clark Bonsai Museum in Shinzen Garden.

A SAMPLING OF BONSAI ON EXHIBIT



Trident Maple Forest
by Ray Thieme



Montezuma Cypress
by Richard Ramirez



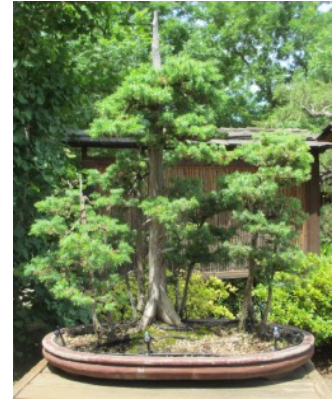
Gingko Forest by
Harute Oto & Chuck Nelson



Japanese Maple Forest
By Irene Tamura



Japanese Maple Forest
By Irene Tamura



Needle Juniper Forest
By Sam Kawaguchi



Sawara Cypress Forest
By Todd Schlafer & Julian Tsai



Shimpaku "3 Dancers"
By Unknown Artist



Coastal Redwood Clump
By Kenji Miyata



Shimpaku grafted on Prostrata
Twin Trunk
By the Hatanakas



Ginkgo Clump
By Bob Hilvers



Camphor Peace Tree Forest
By Bob Hilvers