

Images Available Upon Request

Contact: Martha Gellens 718.549.3200 x232 or
marthag@wavehill.org

ALCHEMY & INQUIRY: PHILIP TAAFFE, FRED TOMASELLI, TERRY WINTERS

Exhibition Underscores the Influences of Nature in New Works by Three Prominent Artists

Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery, April 3–June 19, 2011

Exhibition Reception, June 12, 1–4PM

Bronx, NY, February 23, 2011– *Alchemy & Inquiry* underscores the sense of transformation and discovery that unites the work of **Philip Taaffe**, **Fred Tomaselli** and **Terry Winters**, and situates their dynamic energy within the experience of nature. Organizers **Raymond Foye**, an independent curator, and Wave Hill Senior Curator **Jennifer McGregor** invited the artists to exhibit together for the first time, and create new works of art in response to Wave Hill's landscape. The intuitive joy and optimism that one feels walking through the spring garden is echoed throughout the exhibition in Glyndor Gallery. Each artist occupies a room and presents a unique experience. The works on view invite extended and repeated looking; collected together in a single exhibition, they promise a sublime experience. *Alchemy & Inquiry* dovetails with the mission of Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, to explore human connections with the natural world.

For Taaffe, Tomaselli and Winters, making art involves immersion in natural history, science, and alchemy, with inspiration ranging from arcane botanical illustrations to birding field guides and complex weather charts. Each has developed an individual approach that internalizes diverse cultural sources while skillfully synthesizing visual, cultural, literary and scientific ideas. The term “alchemy” in the exhibition title alludes to the transformation evident in their work on many levels—chemical, magical, and spiritual. In his illuminating catalogue essay, Peter Lamborn Wilson, artist, poet and scholar of Sufism and Western Hermeticism, examines the roots in alchemy and Hermeticism that unite the work of Winters, Tomaselli and Taaffe. *Alchemy & Inquiry* travels to James Cohan Gallery in Shanghai next fall.

Alchemy & Inquiry Artists

Philip Taaffe

While taking his cues from diverse cultural sources, Philip Taaffe energizes each work through inspiration drawn from architecture, anthropology and art history. Taaffe has explored techniques as diverse as paper marbling, decalomania, linocut and gold leafing. His literary and artistic collaborators have included William Burroughs, Paul Bowles, Mohammed Mirabet and Stan Brakhage. Nature printing is one of the many approaches he has studied and utilizes in his paintings and prints. Taaffe has been participating in international exhibitions for several decades, including the Carnegie International, Philadelphia (1991); the Biennale of Sydney (1996); and Biennial Exhibitions, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (1987, 1991, 1995); with individual survey exhibitions at IVAM, Valencia, Spain (2000); Galleria d'Arte Moderna, San Marino, Italy (2004); the Kunstmuseum Wolfsburg, Germany (2008); and the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (2011). His work is included in numerous public collections, including The Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the San Francisco Museum of Art; and Museo Nacional Reina Sofia, Madrid. He studied at Cooper Union, New York, NY.

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