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Nature Might Have Been Responsible, Amy Helfand

Wave Hill House Gallery, December 5, 2004 – February 28, 2005

Meet the Artist: Sunday, December 5, 2-4pm

Wave Hill, a 28-acre public garden and cultural center, presents *Nature Might Have Been Responsible*, artwork by Amy Helfand that focuses on Wave Hill's Wild Garden, on view December 5—February 28, 2005. Helfand creates digital collages, textiles and a Tibetan carpet by manipulating images of the plants and architecture found in the Wild Garden. The resulting pictures elicit numerous interpretations of this spectacular garden, reorienting the way we see it.



Wild Garden Plan (Wave Hill), 2004
Inkjet print of Tibetan wool and silk rug, 5' x 7'



Plants for Hedge-banks and like Places, 2004
Giclee print, 7½" x 10½"

The inspiration for Wave Hill's Wild Garden and Helfand's personal interest in the subject both come from the Irish writer and gardener William Robinson, whose 1870 book, *The Wild Garden*, was a reaction against formalism in garden design. The concept of the Wild Garden, where plants not necessarily occurring together in nature are made to look as if they did, is parallel to her own artistic process. Helfand says, "I create images where "natural" elements are combined in a landscape/site plan and are woven together by map-like structures. The resulting pieces are abstracted sites, invaded by strange organic forms."

This is Ms. Helfand's first solo exhibition in New York. She has exhibited in various group shows in New York as well as at Buckham Gallery, Flint, MI; Evanston Art Center, Evanston, IL; Flat Gallery, Chicago, IL; and Kleinert Arts Center, Woodstock, NY. Helfand received her MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The **Visual Arts Program**, curated by **Jennifer McGregor**, grows out of Wave Hill's mission to explore the interaction of human culture and the natural world. Wave Hill House Gallery is one three venues for this program. As a cultural institution focused on environmental science and the arts, located on an extraordinary natural landscape, Wave Hill is in a unique position to encourage a dialogue that examines the artist's response to nature. The Arts at Wave Hill are sponsored by Target Corporation. Principal funding for the visual arts program is provided by the Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Charitable Trust and the Greenwall Foundation. Sustaining support for Wave Hill is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.

Adult Art Workshop with Amy Helfand: Abstract Garden-Inspired Collages
Sunday, February 13, 2-4pm

Transfer colorful images and unique shapes of plants and gardens to create abstract imagery. Exhibiting artist Amy Helfand introduces a fascinating art-making process that incorporates paper cutouts and outlines. Bring images that you'd like to work from, and magazines.

Call 718.549.3200 x305 to register. Materials fee: \$15/\$10 Wave Hill Member.

GALLERY HOURS 10am-4:30pm, Tuesday-Sunday

ADMISSION December, January, February: Free

DIRECTIONS Wave Hill is accessible by Car, Liberty Lines Express Bus, Metro-North rail (to Riverdale Station), #1/9 subway transfer at 231 St. to Bx 7/10 bus, A subway transfer at 208 St. to Bx 7 bus.

718.549.3200

www.wavehill.org

Wave Hill is a 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades in the northwest Bronx. Award-winning gardens, greenhouses, and woodlands offer people of all ages the opportunity to explore their connections to the natural world. Programs are offered in horticulture, environmental education, woodland management, and the visual and performing arts.

Wave Hill is operated by an independent non-profit organization. Its buildings and grounds are owned by the City of New York. With assistance from Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature and the Bronx Borough President, Wave Hill's operation is supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency, and Foundations, corporations and individuals also contribute vital support.

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