

Images Available Upon Request

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

EXHIBITION EXPLORES RELATIONSHIP TO NATURE THROUGH THREE CENTURES OF PRINTMAKING

Propagating Eden: Uses and Techniques of Nature Printing in Botany and Art

Glyndor Gallery, April 3–July 25, 2010

Exhibition Reception, Sunday, April 11, 1–4PM

Panel Discussion, Sunday, May 23, 2PM

Bronx, NY, March 3, 2010 – Wave Hill and International Print Center New York (IPCNY) announce the opening at Wave Hill of *Propagating Eden: Uses and Techniques of Nature Printing in Botany and Art*, an exhibition organized by IPCNY. Nature printing is defined as the technique of making impressions either directly or indirectly from natural objects. *Propagating Eden* explores the ways in which nature prints have been used in botany, numismatics and art, and the technical means by which printmakers have captured faithful impressions.

Propagating Eden features books and prints from the mid-18th century to the present, and includes important scientific botanical treatises illustrated with nature-printed specimens, as well as works by 20th-century and contemporary artists who have mined the potential of natural forms. Among the works on view are some extraordinary examples of 18th and 19th-century nature prints, including a full sheet of nature-printed American currency by **Benjamin Franklin** from 1779, and a delicate 19th-century botanical illustration by printer and inventor **Alois Auer**. The exhibition will also include 20th-century and contemporary works, such as a recent print from what is described as “plant material—banyan tree aerial roots” by **Michele Oka Doner**, **Ed Ruscha**’s Mixographia® print *Clock* from 1994, and **Kiki Smith**’s *Moment* from 2006.

Wave Hill’s Senior Curator Jennifer McGregor commented, “We are pleased to introduce Wave Hill visitors to this unusual look at a form of printing that has evolved from a technique for categorizing and understanding plants, to an expressive way to weave the presence of the natural world into contemporary art.” IPCNY Director Anne Coffin added that “Public experience of the exhibition and appreciation for nature printing will be enriched by Wave Hill’s unique landscape and impressive plant collection.” *Propagating Eden* has been co-curated by Pari Stave, art historian and former director of AXA Gallery, and Matthew Zucker, a rare book collector based in New York City. Ms. Stave has written that “Direct prints of minerals, insects, animals and plants have long fascinated both scientists and artist. Why would Leonardo, who could have drawn anything in nature with greater command than anyone, and who understood intimately the anatomy of living things, take interest in printing a leaf? Taken as a whole, whether aesthetic considerations are unintended or not, it is remarkable how the technique of nature printing speaks for itself in all its formal perfection.”



Kniphof, Johann Hieronymous,
*Botanici in Originali Seu
Herbarium Vivum*, 1757-64,
Folio of direct nature prints with
hand coloring



Smith, Kiki, *Moment*, 2006
Lithograph with watercolor
and pressed leaves

[MORE/](#)

An illustrated brochure with a curatorial essay will accompany the exhibition.

Propagating Eden is supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, The Reed Foundation, and the Arthur Ross Foundation. Support for Wave Hill's Visual Arts Program is provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., the Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, The Greenwall Foundation, and the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency.

Panel Discussion, Sunday, May 23, 2PM, in Wave Hill House

Speakers include **Michele Oka Doner**, artist; **Patricia Jonas**, Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Director of Library Services and Curator of the Florilegium Society; and **Karen Reeds**, a Princeton scholar. Curator **Pari Stave** will moderate a lively discussion of the history of nature printing and its allure for contemporary artists.

Exhibition Tours

Join an Exhibition Interpreter TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS at Noon, SATURDAYS at 2PM.

Sunroom Project Space

Solo installations in the Sunroom Project Space this spring and summer:

- **Rita MacDonald**, April 3–May 16
- **Takafumi Ide**, May 22–June 27
- **Daniel Bruce**, July 3–August 22

Wave Hill **675 West 252nd St Bronx, NY 10471** **718.549.3200** **www.wavehill.org**

HOURS Open all year, Tuesday–Sunday and many major holidays: 9AM–5:30PM.
Closes 4:30PM, October 15–April 14.

GALLERY HOURS *10AM–4:30PM*

ADMISSION \$8 adults, \$4 students and seniors 65+, \$2 children 6–18.
Free Tuesday and Saturday mornings until noon.
Free to Members and children under 6.

DIRECTIONS—Getting here is easy. Located only 30 minutes from midtown Manhattan, Wave Hill's free shuttle van transports you to and from our front gate and Metro-North's Riverdale station, the 242nd Street stop on the #1 subway line. Limited onsite parking is available for \$8 per vehicle. Free offsite parking nearby with continuous, complimentary shuttle service to and from the offsite lot and our front gate. Complete directions and shuttle bus schedule at www.wavehill.org.



Target Free Days

Target sponsors free Tuesday and Saturday morning admission to Wave Hill, providing public access to the arts in our community