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Garden Improvement

Wave Hill, Glyndor Gallery and grounds

June 11-August 27, 2006 Reception: June 11, 1-4pm

Joan Bankemper, Karen Rich Beall, Jimbo Blachly & Lytle Shaw, Laure Drogoul, Charles Goldman, Paula Hayes, Marguerite Kahrl & Paul Ruff, Cassandra Lozano, Catarina Leitão, Philip Ross, Rachel Selekman, Austin Thomas, and Andy Yoder.

From June 11-August 27, Wave Hill presents the exhibition *Garden Improvement*, on view in Glyndor Gallery and on the grounds. To many visitors Wave Hill is a utopian garden, a place to seek ideas and inspiration for their own homes. ***Garden Improvement* will offer an alternate view of the relationship between people and nature by looking at how a garden is made more inhabitable, personal, and domesticated.** The exhibition includes idiosyncratic, humble, do-it-yourself ideas born from artists' spirit of invention, rather than by design. Furnishings, equipment, and embellishments that make the garden more comfortable indoors and out will form a bridge from culture to nature. Each project has been created specifically for this exhibition.

OUTDOORS ~ *Practical ideas for making the most of your outdoor space.*

Joan Bankemper creates a bird observation area with a suite of tractor-part chairs and ornate birdhouses on ornamented poles. These are cast in ceramic from found molds used to make kitschy collectables and employ a 1960's color scheme of turquoise, orange and off-white.

Keeping with the DIY nature of his *Public Fountain*, **Charles Goldman** is transporting this solar-powered, portable fountain on foot, from Brooklyn to the Bronx via Broadway. The fountain will be relocated to different parts of the grounds offering visitors a respite from the heat. A video in the gallery charts the transport of the fountain through the City streets.

Conscious of the need to be less reliant on fossil fuels, **Marquerite Kahrl** and **Paul Ruff** invented a solar-powered lawn mower made from recycled parts. It will operate regularly to keep the grass and weeds at bay.

Austin Thomas transforms a rustic stone overlook area into *Patio Perched*, a cluster of stools made out of cast-off Corian® pieces arranged like slabs of flagstone to create a perfect gathering spot for a small group.

In his elegiac work, *Timberline*, **Andy Yoder** replaces a plank from each of the tables in Wave Hill's picnic area. Drawing attention to trees as a source for garden furniture, half of the planks originate from trees that are prized for furniture but endangered due to de-forestation. Others come from domestic hardwoods being affected by acid rain. Three are from species found at Wave Hill. Each plank bears the tree's name, etched by a Vermont memorial company.

(Continued on Reverse)

INSIDE THE GALLERY, *an urbanite's response to bringing nature indoors*

Karen Rich Beall brings the garden indoors through a new installation that interprets the *brugmansia* (angels trumpet) found during the summer at the Perkins Visitor Center entrance. Suspended in a stairwell, this vine-like structure is knit by hand and inspired by 19th-century decorative borders and ornament, connecting the natural with the domestic.

Laure Drogoul preserves the scents of plants found at Wave Hill in an olfactory installation or “scentorium.” Bottled specimens, a distilling device and dried plants form the basis of this collection where visitors can test their sense of smell.

Anticipating growth in compromised environments, **Philip Ross** exhibits *Roundabout*, a squat bunker-like indoor planter with mysterious interior growing spaces for flowers and nice smelling herbs. When plugged into the wall, the container acts as a life-support system supplying air, light, water and protection to the plants inside. Another piece, *Junior Return*, is a small hydroponic sculpture, or self-contained survival capsule, for one living plant.

Catarina Leitão's *Private Garden* is a portable, tent-like garden. Anthropomorphic in shape, this hybrid garment and tent contains a mysterious interior retreat filled with soft plant-like pillows. Leitão suggests that we manipulate nature to make it more comfortable, accommodating our desire to be closer to the diminishing, often distant natural environment.

In the sunroom, **Paula Hayes** is arranging a group of rare jewel-like orchids in small silicone, earthen colored planters that she has designed. She cultivates the wild, free relationship between the container and the contained.

Cassandra Lozano transforms the gallery's oval entrance foyer into a glittering grotto with an array of suspended *Blossom Bombs* – lighted globes containing an array of floating flowers.

Rachel Selekmán's sun porch installation expands on her interest in the watering can and its function to nourish and aid in growth. She transforms the utilitarian tool by creating multi-spouted cans. Two hang from the ceiling, pouring forth a cascade of roses and silver thread, while a floor-based can extends its tentacles like an octopus.

Jimbo Blachly and Lytle Shaw, working as the Chadwicks, a pair of “hack” researchers, exhibit a folio, models and artifacts that depict volcano garden follies. They claim that the follies were planned for Wave Hill's grounds by resident Bashford Dean in the early part of the 20th Century.

RELATED PROGRAMS

Sunset Wednesdays, Evening demonstrations following the *Aromatic and Edible Garden* program at 6:30pm.

June 14, Marguerite Kahrl and Paul Ruff demonstrate their solar-powered lawnmower and talk about inventing environment-friendly prototypes, 7:15pm

June 21, Phil Ross explains his experimental work growing plants in constructed environments, 7:15pm

June 28, Charles Goldman demonstrates his portable solar-powered fountain, 7:15pm

Sunday Performances

July 9, Scent Salon - Expand your Olfactory Consciousness: Experience scents with Laure Drogoul, who will administer a unique smell enhancing experience with her portable scentorium. 2PM

July 30, Tour with the Chadwicks and hear about discovery of Bashford Dean's Grotto, **Jimbo Blachly & Lytle Shaw**, 2pm.

August 13, Perched Patio Performance, Austin Thomas tells themed stories in her outdoor patio/social space, 2pm.

August 12, 13, Shared Art, Joan Bankemper leads the Family Art Project to create fanciful mosaic flowerpots, 1-4pm.

Curator: Jennifer McGregor

Assistant Curator: Erica Strongin

GLYNDOR GALLERY
WAVE HILL ADMISSION

10am to 4:30pm, Tues-Sun. Open until 8pm on Wednesdays in June & July.
\$4; \$2/Seniors, Students; FREE Members and children under 6; FREE Tuesday; FREE 9am to noon Saturday

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The Arts at Wave Hill are sponsored by **TARGET**