

Images Available Upon Request

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WAVE HILL ANNOUNCES FALL ART EXHIBITIONS

Poe, Twain Provide Focus for Contemporary Explorations of 19th-century Writing About Nature; Three Solo Exhibitions for Sunroom Project Space

Bronx, NY, August 21, 2007 – The final exhibition in Wave Hill’s series that explores 19th-century American writing through the lens of contemporary art features projects that focus on Edgar Allan Poe and Mark Twain, two celebrated authors who lived briefly in the Bronx. Twain resided at Wave Hill from 1901 to 1903. From 1846 to 1849, Poe lived in a small farmhouse that is now located in Poe Park on East Kingsbridge Road and the Grand Concourse.

Wave Hill will also present solo shows by three emerging artists who will transform the Glyndor Gallery sunrooms. The Sunroom Project Space is an opportunity for New York-area emerging artists to develop a special project or create a new body of work to exhibit in a solo show.

POE AND TWAIN PROJECTS: Simon Leung, Allison Smith, Amy Yoes

September 8–December 2, 2007

Reception: September 9, 2007, from 1pm-4pm

For this exhibition, Senior Curator **Jennifer McGregor** has invited three artists to develop special projects using texts by Twain and Poe as a departure point. Each project creates a distinct experience within a room of the gallery.

Artists will be installing Tuesday, September 4, through Thursday, September 6, and will be available for pre-view interviews onsite during the installation.

Allison Smith, who has mined the Civil War through her *Muster* projects, is creating an installation of sculpture that transforms what was once the living room of Glyndor House into a period room. Among the objects that she has created are a braided rug, provisional furniture and window treatments. Her departure point is Mark Twain’s experience as a confederate soldier, described in “The Private History of a Campaign that Failed,” and two other works: *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* and “The Tournament in A.D. 1870,” which explore notions of time travel and reenactment.

Allison Smith has developed elaborate projects that explore craft traditions and history. Her work has been shown at UC Berkeley Art Museum/MATRIX Program, Berkeley, CA; MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; and Artpace, San Antonio, TX. Her large-scale, interactive *Muster* project was orchestrated for Governor’s Island in 2006, and is documented in a book produced by the Public Art Fund. She lives in New York.

Simon Leung's video project takes Edgar Allan Poe's use of parallels, secrets, doppelgängers and pre-Freudian psychology as structural and thematic departures for weaving interconnecting scenes that address Poe's literature, life and legacy. Working with Yvonne Rainer, Warren Niesluchowski and Gregory Poe (a distant relative of E. A. Poe), and shot on the site of two former Poe residences in New York, as well as in California and Poland, Leung explores Poe's popular and lesser known works, including "The Raven," *The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket*, "The Black Cat" and "The Tell-Tale Heart," in relationship to site-specificity, language, allegory and contemporary politics. Leung's process is based on Robert Smithson's reading of *Arthur Gordon Pym*, which suggests that the story can be a model for the site/non-site dialectic.

Simon Leung's work is project based and frequently collaborative. Selected solo exhibitions include Pat Hearn Gallery, New York, NY; Refusalon, San Francisco, CA; and Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, CA. His work has also been presented at the Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; the Whitney Biennial, New York, NY; the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; PS1 Museum, New York, NY; the Art Institute of Chicago; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions. Leung divides his time between Los Angeles and Brooklyn.

Amy Yoes' installation will explore Edgar Allan Poe's idiosyncratic ideas about interior space as outlined in his 1840 essay "The Philosophy of Furniture," and a parallel investigation into aspects of his short story "William Wilson." She constructs a scenario of relationships loosely based on the idea of an "evil twin," as well as on Poe's humorous diatribe about interior design. Yoes notes that in Poe's work the setting shapes the actions, emotions and motivations of the people who inhabit them. Here, her installation speaks to the influence of environment on the mind through a complex series of interlocking structures, part architecture, part furniture, that dislocate in the parlor-like setting of the North Gallery.

This project builds on her recent sculpture *Sign Language* at Socrates Sculpture Park as part of *L.I.C., NYC*, and her solo exhibition at Michael Steinberg Fine Art, New York, NY. She created a wall drawing, *Sightseers Folklore*, for Wave Hill's exhibition *Out of Bounds* in 2005. She has shown video projects as part of *50,000 Beds*, a film project by Chris Doyle, and at the Peppermill Fireside Lounge, Las Vegas, NV. Her work has been exhibited at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; Cranbrook Art Museum, Bloomfield Hills, MI; and Hollins University, Roanoke, VA. Yoes lives in New York and is represented by Michael Steinberg Fine Art.

SUNROOM PROJECT SPACE

Jeff Feddersen

Margie Neuhaus

September 8–October 14, 2007

Fall Exhibition Reception: September 9 from 1pm-4pm

Meet the Artists: October 14 at 2pm

Joianne Bittle Knight

October 19–December 2, 2007

Meet the Artist: October 21, 2007 at 2pm

Margie Neuhaus has long been interested in natural phenomena. With the opportunity to create a project for Wave Hill's sunroom, she turned her attention to the shape, structure and gesture of plants. The result is a 60-foot, swirling structure that envelops the visitor, with a dense, grotto-

like formation in one corner of the room. Neuhaus employs an array of materials — colored wire, laser-cut plastics and yellow rods — that carry the light from the windows and tie together flowing sheets of green, painted acetate. Neuhaus's installation expresses the wonder of the natural world and is a lively counterpart to the vines on the windowpanes, the squash plants in the foreground and the view to the woodlands beyond.

Margie Neuhaus's first solo exhibition, *Sensory Jetty*, opened in January 2007 at SafeT-Gallery, Brooklyn, NY. She has created outdoor sculpture installations as part of *From the Ground Up*, Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY; *Inter/Change: Sculpture for a Changing Landscape*, Stone Quarry Hill Art Park, Cazenovia, NY; and *Convergence XI*, Providence, RI.

Jeff Feddersen's *ForestBot* is a kinetic, acoustic installation featuring a group of five robotic sculptures made of wood, metal, fiberglass, rattles, motors and custom electronics. Tall, gently swaying stalks support small rattles at their tips and counter-weighted mechanisms near the ground. Algorithmic movements in the mechanisms cause the rattles to sound. Small variations in the speed, weight and placement of the mechanisms, and the length of the stalks, impart subtle variations to the overall sound texture created. At the same time, powerful motors in the articulated bases of the sculptures can tilt the stalks, causing them to move almost imperceptibly, as if following the sun. It has been reconfigured for the sun porch, a setting where the sounds of *ForestBot* can be heard in relation to the surrounding garden, and seen against the backdrop of Wave Hill's woodlands.

Jeff Feddersen is an artist, musician and engineer interested in new musical instruments and sustainable energy. He has developed new means of musical expression, such as real-time composition software, multi-modal digital input devices and two amplified acoustic instruments — the Silverfish and the Double Harmonics Guitar. Feddersen has exhibited or performed at *Homemade Instrument Day* at The Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, New York, NY; *The Extended Instrument: An Investigation into Sound Art and Contemporary Music* with Harvestworks, New York, NY; *New Interfaces for Musical Expression* (NIME), Hamamatsu, Japan; and *Musicacoustic* 2005, Beijing, China.

Joianne Bittle Knight debuts the fourth painting in her *Royal Family* series of beetles and a drawing. In her large, meticulously crafted oil paintings she closely examines the intricate, anatomical details of a specific beetle, and manipulates forms and light to achieve a rich surface through layers of over-painting and sanding. The work synthesizes her fascination with the insect's intricate structure and the beetle's cultural associations with divinity and royalty.

This is Joianne Bittle Knight's first solo exhibition. Her work has been included in *Art Handlers*, Christie's, New York, NY; *Winter Exhibition*, Scuola Internazionale di Grafica, Venice, Italy; *BFA Thesis Show*, School of Fine Arts Gallery, H.R. Hope School of Fine Arts, Bloomington, IN; and *Annual Juried Exhibition*, Waldron Arts Center, Bloomington, IN.

Exhibition-related Public Programs

- Saturday and Sunday, September 29 and 30, from 1pm to 4pm, **Margie Neuhaus** leads a Family Art Project devoted to constructing mixed-media interpretations of what's inside a tree or flower.
- Sunday, October 7, at 1pm & 3pm, **Thomas Devaney** shares selections of poems by Edgar Allan Poe and **Carol Muske-Dukes** reads from Mark Twain in a program offered in collaboration with **Poets House**.
- Thursday, November 1, at 2pm, Horticultural Interpreter **Charles Day** leads a walk to admire the fall foliage and meet some of the trees at Wave Hill that still survive from the time when Mark Twain lived here.
- Sunday, November 4, at 2pm, Mezzo-soprano **Stephanie Houtzeel** and pianist **Ken Noda** perform a program inspired by Edgar Allan Poe.
- Sunday, November 11, at 2pm, exhibiting artists **Allison Smith** and **Amy Yoes** orchestrate an imagined conversation between the renowned writers.

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

A 28-acre public garden and cultural center overlooking the Hudson River and Palisades, Wave Hill's mission is to celebrate the artistry and legacy of its gardens and landscapes, to preserve its magnificent views, and to explore human connections to the natural world through programs in horticulture, education and the arts.

GALLERY HOURS Tuesday—Sunday 10am—4:30pm

ADMISSION

Tuesday: Free all day

Wednesday—Sunday and Saturday afternoons: \$6 adults, \$3 students and seniors 65+, \$2 children 6+

Free to Members, and children under 6.

Support for the Visual Arts at Wave Hill is provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, the Hess & Helyn Kline Foundation, Target, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts—a state agency. Simon Leung's project, POE, is sponsored by a grant from the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts. Sustaining support for Wave Hill is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs.



The Arts at Wave Hill are sponsored by



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