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Survive/Thrive/Alive

March 4-May 29, 2006

Glyndor Gallery Wave Hill

Reception: April 23, 1-4pm

Mia Brownell, Cristina de Gennaro, Stephanie Dinkins, Kevin Duggan, Janet Koenig and Greg Sholette, Algernon Miller, Alison Moritsugu, Lisa Murch. Special project by Maureen Connor.



Alison Moritsugu
Sketch for Glyndor foyer. Decorative painting techniques explore imagery based on introduced Hawaiian tropical plants, commonly considered native.



Lisa Murch
Sketch for Glyndor stairwell installation. Invasive plants take over stairwell.

From March 4-May 29, 2006, Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center, explores the idea of plant survival in the exhibition *Survive/Thrive/Alive*. Showcasing eight new installations by Mia Brownell, Cristina de Gennaro, Stephanie Dinkins, Kevin Duggan, Janet Koenig & Greg Sholette, Algernon Miller, Alison Moritsugu, and Lisa Murch, the exhibition examines issues of adaptation and migration, and how these natural forces are compounded by the struggle between civilization and the plant kingdom. In addition, artist **Maureen Connor** investigates the curatorial process through her video guide to the exhibition.

Mia Brownell's interest in the genetic engineering of food led her to a series of paintings that are inspired by Dutch 17th Century still life paintings. She is creating two new paintings based on the forms of a protein and an amino acid string that employ images of grapes and other fruits.

Cristina de Gennaro is working in the gallery regularly to create a multi-layered installation exploring Wave Hill history. Her work addresses cultural and personal memory through association with specific plants. She is painting and collaging directly onto the walls and hanging translucent drawings.

Stephanie Dinkins is creating a site-specific project in the sunroom that involves growing plants in adverse conditions by creating planters made of books, cast-off computer and electronic parts. She's crafting an environment one looks into and contemplates experiencing.

(continued on reverse)

Kevin Duggan is creating four accordion books of botanical watercolor paintings based on plants found in Albrecht Durer's 1503 masterpiece *Der Grosse Rasenstuck (The Great Piece of Earth)*. Duggan follows the path of these commonplace plants through the present depicting their process of competition and co-evolution. The plants are yarrow, creeping bent, daisy, hound's-tongue, greater pliantain, meadow grass, dandelion, germander speedwell and crow's foot (grass).

In *Surviving Paradise*, collaborating artists **Janet Koenig and Greg Sholette**, turn to the Fertile Crescent, to trace plants that have their origin in the cradle of civilization. Their installation alludes to the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and to 15th Century Islamic illuminated manuscripts, and calls attention to the human conquests that have shaped and reshaped the natural and cultural history of the Near East.

Algernon Miller has been studying Seneca Village, a thriving village of people of African descent that was displaced to make way for Central Park in the mid-nineteenth century. Working with x-rays and images of artifacts found at the site, his installation chronologically explores the parallel displacement of plants and the people who lived there.

Alison Moritsugu uses decorative painting techniques and wallpaper motifs in an installation in the foyer with imagery based on Hawaiian tropical plants associated with the islands that were introduced from elsewhere. The alcoves will be painted with images of over-grown tropical foliage with "hidden images" of endemic native plants and birds formed by the negative space.

Lisa Murch's installation is based on four common invasive plants: Japanese knotweed, porcelain berry, hemlock with wooly adelgid and garlic mustard. She recreates their pervasive nature to overtake the elegant spiral stairwell. Her keen interest in botany and her obsessive use of everyday materials join forces in work that mimics the transformation invasives bring to bear on the environment.



Wave Hill invited artist **Maureen Connor** behind the scenes for the planning of *Survive/Thrive/Alive*. Her video guide, *Curatorial Studies*, offers insight into the curatorial procedures and processes that often remain enigmatic, even to devoted art viewers. Beginning in August she was a fly on the wall videotaping everything from the curators review of 130 proposals, to 18 studio and site visits, to the final selection of artists and lastly the progress of the artists' installations. Visitors will play the video on small portable DVD players as they view the exhibition. Connor adds, "Through this project I'm planning to reveal and explicate the curatorial selection process in relation to each of the installations as well as to the overall concept and impact of the show."

Photo of Maureen Connor by Tommy Mintz.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

- April 1, 2**, 1pm *Meet the Artists*, tour the exhibit with artists and curators.
April 23, 1-4pm *Exhibition Reception*, meet the artists and curators.
April 29, 30, 1-4pm Family Art Project, *Planter Surprises/Un sorpresivo matero*: Join **Stephanie Dinkins** to make a planter from recycled materials, then plant it with seeds and take it home to grow.
May 21, 2pm *Curatorial Process Panel*, with artist Maureen Connor, curators Jennifer McGregor and Erica Strongin, and respondent Ingrid Shaffner, Curator at University of Pennsylvania's Institute for Arts.

GLYNDOR GALLERY

10am to 4:30pm, Tuesday-Sunday

WAVE HILL ADMISSION

\$4; \$2/Seniors, Students; FREE Members and children under 6; FREE Tuesday; FREE 9am to noon Saturday

Wave Hill A public garden & cultural center
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