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Transplant – Transculture

Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery September 10 – December 10, 2006

Reception Sunday, September 10, 2006 1–4pm

Tomie Arai, Sandra A. M Bell, Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons, Cui Fei, Nicolás Dumit Estévez, Ming Fay, Nancy Friedemann, Skowmon Hastanan, Jung Hyang Kim, Lin Yan, Miguel Luciano, Raymond Saá, Julio Valdez and Zhang Hongtu

Bronx, NY (August 1, 2006) — Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center located in the Bronx, is pleased to announce its fall exhibition, *Transplant – Transculture*, in Glyndor Gallery. Just as plants migrate, so do people, bringing an affinity for flora and landscape with them. *Transplant – Transculture* explores ways that plants signify a deep connection to home through paintings, prints, photographs, drawings, video, sculpture and installations by artists from diverse backgrounds.

Several artists are creating new works for the exhibition. **Sandra A. M Bell**, who specializes in carnival costumes, is creating a *Jack in the Green* character derived from her own West African masquerade traditions, based on the nineteenth-century Christmas celebrations of Afro-Jamaicans. **Nancy Friedemann** is painting a new triptych based on plants associated with the colonization of Columbia, and her associations with her parents' farm in Bogotá. **Raymond Saá** is transforming the entrance foyer of Glyndor Gallery with a plant-inspired mural.

Nicolás Dumit Estévez, Miguel Luciano, and Julio Valdez each explore the significance of the platano/plantain. For Estévez, a video and performance artist born in the Dominican Republic, food is often the focus for a satiric treatment of ethnic identity and foreignness. Luciano presents the plantain as a platinum-plated icon, drawing on Puerto Rican and Caribbean associations and hip-hop culture. Valdez's work explores the symbolism of plants traditional to his birthplace, the Dominican Republic, and the ways in which they evoke cultural memory.

Ming Fay's ceramic *Monkey Pots* are based on a nut indigenous to the Amazon that is tremendously attractive to monkeys. Fay is interested in the way the monkey pot has spread through British colonialism. **Skowmon Hastanan's** light boxes tell parallel botanical and human narratives based on traveler's tales, cross-cultural mythology and current events originating in Thailand.

Zhang Hongtu's triptych of paintings depict Chinese landscapes in the style of the French Impressionists, in the process reversing the early modernist fascination with the East, as well as transforming the iconic landscape traditions of China's great masters. **Lin Yan's** black on black paintings from her *Companion* series combine references to minimalism, Chinese painting, and plants from her childhood memories in Beijing, where she was born to a family with generations of artists. **Cui Fei** was born in China, where she witnessed radical social and cultural change. In *Manuscript of Nature I* she arranges leaves in symbolic, vertical compositions that draw on Chinese calligraphic traditions.

(Continued on reverse)

Tomie Arai, a third-generation Japanese-American, is exhibiting prints from her *Peach Boy* series, based on a Japanese folktale and her own family history. **Jung Hyang Kim**'s large-scale watercolor layers geometric and plant sources that emanate from her own experience gardening, as well as from Buddhist imagery and the artistic traditions of her native Korea. Three generations of women relax in a home-inspired garden in *Backyard Dreams*, a photograph by Cuban born and educated **Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons**.

CURATOR: JENNIFER MCGREGOR

ASSISTANT CURATOR: ERICA STRONGIN

RELATED PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Saturday, Sunday, October 28, 29, **Sandra A. M Bell** leads a Family Art Project making animal masks to wear or carry in a Nature Masquerade and Parade at the conclusion of the workshop, 1-4pm

Sunday, October 29, the Artist Exhibition Tour with *Transplant* artists and curators shows how artists explore plants in different cultures, 2:30pm

Saturday, Sunday, November 11, 12, **Cui Fei** will lead a Family Art Project showing how to create secret-writing collages using leaves, twigs and other natural materials, 1-4pm

Culturally Printing – Two Adult Workshops

- Sunday, November 12, 2pm, The basics of monotype printmaking will be taught by **Tomie Arai**, who blends her Japanese-American roots to create beautiful prints.
- Sunday, November 19, 2 pm, **Julio Valdez** as he teaches a collage-based mono-printing technique inspired by Afro-Caribbean imagery.

Fee for each workshop \$20/\$15 Member. Registration required; call 718.549.3200 x305.

Wave Hill West 249th Street and Independence Avenue, Bronx, New York 10471

Tel: 718.549.3200

Online at www.wavehill.org

Accessible by car, MTA Express Bus, Metro-North rail (to Riverdale Station), #1 subway (with a transfer at 231 St. to Bx 7/10 bus or the A train (with a transfer at 208 St. to Bx 7 bus)

HOURS 9am – 5:30pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Open until 9pm Wednesdays in June and July.

GALLERY, CAFÉ, SHOP 10am – 4:30pm, and until 8pm on Wednesdays in June and July.

ADMISSION Tuesday: Free all day
Wednesday – Sunday: \$4/general public; \$2/students and seniors 65+; Free to members and children under 6
Saturday: Free 9am to noon

Principal funding for the Visual Arts Program is provided by the Stephen and Cathy Weinroth Charitable Trust. Additional support is provided by the Lily Auchincloss Foundation, the Greenwall Foundation, the Hess & Helyn Kline Foundation, the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts and the New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency.



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

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