



Wave Hill A public garden & cultural center

675 West 252nd Street  
Bronx, New York 10471-2899

718.549.3200 FAX 718.884.8952  
www.wavehill.org

Images Available Upon Request

Contact: Martha Gellens 718.549.3200 x232 or [marthag@wavehill.org](mailto:marthag@wavehill.org)

## ***Flora Fantastica!* at Wave Hill this Summer**

On view: July 16–August 27, 2017

Summer Exhibitions Reception: Sunday, July 16, 2–4:30PM

Bronx, NY, April 6, 2017— A counterpoint to Wave Hill’s lush summer gardens, this exuberant exhibition shows the work of four artists, **Nancy Blum**, **Amy Cheng**, **Elisabeth Condon** and **Jill Parisi**, who share an interest in pattern derived from cultural and botanical sources to create fantastic hybrid forms. Each artist has developed individualized techniques to create work that inspires a sense of awe and wonder.



*Amy Cheng. Into The Breach, 2014. Oil on canvas. 36" x 60." Courtesy of the artist.*

**Nancy Blum** takes inspiration from 16th- and 17th-century botanical images, from Chinese plum blossoms to German botanicals. In *Flora Fantastica!* she is exhibiting large-scale works on paper that employ pencil, gouache and graphite. In a single drawing, she inventively combines plants that might not be found together in nature. She notes that her “deeper intent is to conjure the ‘flower’ as an active, forceful agent, subverting a culturally conditioned point of view that often deems the ephemeral and the organic as less powerful and of limited value.”

**Amy Cheng**’s paintings are sumptuous, intricate and ornamented, referencing a range of associations, from mandalas and the cosmos to cells, lace and brocade. She is inspired by the long tradition of geometric and floral ornamentation found in the Far East, Middle East and the Byzantine and Baroque periods. In particular, the “implicit understanding that pattern and repetition, which are endemic in nature, are primal in their rhythmic connection to the human nervous system.”

MORE//

**Elisabeth Condon** is a painter, traveler and Chinese-scroll aficionado whose work re-interprets Chinese principles of balance for an information-saturated world. She participated in Wave Hill's 2017 Winter Workspace Program, where she developed the concept for her installation. She will combine paintings with elements of wallpaper, based on drawings she made from life in Wave Hill's greenhouses.

**Jill Parisi** will create an immersive installation in Glyndor Gallery's entry foyer, celebrating the plant kingdom's wide palette and intricate patterns. She uses tissue-weight papers, drawing, hand-cut components and centuries-old printmaking techniques. She notes that "The process for creating the flora and fauna existing in my imaginary ecosystems can be likened to jazz—I'm riffing on nature, taking colors, structures, et cetera, from a variety of species and places, and reconfiguring them in a new way."

In addition to Wave Hill, two other partner institutions in the **Fairfield Westchester Museum Alliance** are offering flower related exhibitions this summer. The Hudson River Museum presents *Robert Zakanitch: Garden of Ornament* and the Bruce Museum presents *Spring Forward with Andy (Warhol)*. In addition, the Hudson River Museum and Wave Hill are collaborating on some public programs, as described below. Wave Hill Members enjoy free admission at all FWMA organizations.

## Public Programs for *Flora Fantastica!*

SAT, JUNE 24, 2PM. **Talk & Tour: The Horticulturalist's Eye**

Tour the Hudson River Museum's summer exhibition, *Robert Zakanitch: Garden of Ornament*, with Wave Hill's Assistant Director of Horticulture **Matthew Turnbull** and Hudson River Museum Curatorial Chair **Laura Vookles**. This event is part of the Museum's series "Talk and Tour" series.

SAT, SUN, JULY 22, 23, 10AM-1PM. **Family Art Project: Spray a Watercolor Garden**

In conjunction with *Flora Fantastica!* Be inspired by the flowering plants at Wave Hill and paint the colors of summer into a garden painting made without brushes. Work with mists of watercolor in a painting outdoors and combine it with color-soaked paper flowers to create your own blooming vision. *This event is part of Wave Hill's Bountiful Blooms Weekend.* Free with admission to the grounds.

SAT, JULY 22, 1PM. **Wave Hill Garden Walk: The Language of Flowers**

The Victorians viewed individual flowers as objects of beauty as well as symbols of emotion and sentiment. Walk the gardens with Director of Public Programs **Laurel Rimmer** to decode hidden messages in herbs and flowers according to the Victorian "Language of Flowers." Free with admission to the grounds.

SUN, JULY 23, 1-4PM. **Art Workshop: Drawing Flowers—An Introduction to Botanical Illustration**

Botanical Illustration is the intersection of art and science. Observe and record the intricate details of Wave Hill's summer flora with artist and naturalist **Gabriel Willow**. Using pen and pencil techniques, practice accurate and scientific depictions of buds and blooms. All skill levels welcome. Registration required, online at [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org) or at the Perkins Visitor Center. Space is limited. \$55/\$45 Wave Hill Member.

SUN, JULY 23, 1PM. **Cooking Demonstration: Edible Flowers**

A surprising number of beautiful flowers are edible, adding color and zing to salads or subtle floral aromas to desserts. Sample some delicious flowery recipes with Chef Stephen Rosenberg of **Great Performances**, then take a stroll with a Horticultural Interpreter to view gourmet blossoms in the garden. Free with admission to the grounds.

**SAT, AUG 5, 2PM. Illustrated Curatorial Talk: Floral Inspiration**

This presentation at Wave Hill looks at the flowers of Glenview, the 1877 historic house at the Hudson River Museum. Hudson River Museum Curatorial Chair **Laura Vookles** discusses how floral decoration was used for every aspect of the Victorian house, from wallpaper and woodwork to stenciling and all varieties of its interior design. **Jennifer McGregor**, Wave Hill’s Senior Curator, discusses how the artists in *Flora Fantastica!* are bringing flowers to the fore in public art projects around the country. Free with admission to the grounds.

.....  
Support for the Visual Arts Program is provided by Lily Auchincloss Foundation, Inc., Milton & Sally Avery Arts Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and by the Cathy and Stephen Weinroth Commissioning Fund for the Arts. The Family Art Project is supported by The Barker Welfare Foundation, Cleveland H. Dodge Foundation, and Sarah and Geoffrey Gund. Support for Public Programs is provided by The William Froelich Foundation. Wave Hill, Inc. is an independent, non-profit cultural institution governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The buildings and grounds of Wave Hill are owned by the City of New York. With the assistance of the Bronx Borough President and Bronx representatives in the City Council and State Legislature, Wave Hill’s operations are supported with public funds through the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; the Zoos, Botanical Gardens and Aquariums Grant Program administered by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.



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.

- HOURS** Open all year, Tuesday–Sunday and many major holidays: 9AM–5:30PM. Closes 4:30PM, Nov 1–Mar 14.
- GALLERY HOURS** 10AM–4:30PM, Tuesday–Sunday.
- ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS** \$8 adults, \$4 students and senior 65+, \$2 children 6–18. Free Tuesdays and Saturdays until noon. Free to members, 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 W. 242 St. stop on the #1 subway line, and to and from our free offsite parking lot. Limited onsite parking is available for \$8 per vehicle. Complete directions and shuttle van schedule at [wavehill.org](http://wavehill.org).

####