



## Wave Hill

Public Garden & Cultural Center

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## Press Release

### Wave Hill Announces the 2025 Sunroom Project Space Season

NYC-area artists supported through unique, site-specific art-incubator program

Bronx, NY, May 14, 2025 — Wave Hill is pleased to announce the 2025 Sunroom Project Space season. Artists [Sonja John](#), [Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya](#), [SuRan Song & William M. Weis III](#), [Monica Duncan](#), [Jennifer Tobias](#), [Caroline Garcia](#), and [Magdalena Dukiewicz](#) will present site-responsive projects at Glyndor House in the Sunroom, Sun Porch, and on the Glyndor Terrace Garden. The recently renovated terrace makes it fully accessible for the first time in Wave Hill's history to present outdoor site-specific works, public art, and performances. Many of the related *Meet the Artist* programs will also be participatory, inviting viewers to engage in ritual, movement, workshops, and dialogue.



Sonja John, *home is not a country*, 2024, mixed media installation. Photo: Devon John.

Since 2007, the Sunroom Project Space has supported NYC-area artists in the research, development, and presentation of site-specific projects that respond to the ecology and history of Wave Hill, the immediate neighborhood and the borough of the Bronx at the interplay of nature and culture. Organized by Curator of Visual Arts **Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger**, each project is accompanied by a *Meet the Artist* program co-designed with the artists and an exhibition essay published both in print and online. For many, the Sunroom Project Space presents an artist's first solo project. This year's dynamic group of artists draw from their own lived experiences as well as broader socio-political concerns to explore relationships between nature. This year's exhibitions take up several topics including civil rights, im/migration, ancestral traditions, embodiment, environmental issues and the history of Wave Hill. The 2025 call for entries were reviewed by a panel of arts professionals including [Nicolás Dumit Estévez](#), [Raful Espejo Ovalles](#), artist, researcher, curator and founder of [The Interior Beauty Salon](#) in the Bronx; [Jordany Genao](#), 2024 Sunroom Project Space artist and educator; and Gugelberger.

## 2025 Sunroom Project Space Exhibition Schedule

### May 31 – September 1, 2025, Glyndor Terrace

The outdoor sculpture and live performance, *You're Soaking in It!*, by **SuRan Song & William M. Weis III**, explores how culture is shaped by our shared biological experiences of sleeping and dreaming. Designed as an interactive space on Glyndor Terrace Garden for a collaborative, on-site dream experience, *You're Soaking in It!* examines the ethics of the prohibition of sleeping and dreaming in public spaces, inviting visitors to take siestas on the sculpture and share their dreams of garden reveries using a QR code. Visitor contributions will shape the artist's songwriting and movement research into programs on Sunday, July 13 and Saturday, August 2, that will take place as the sculpture is transformed from a daybed into to a platform stage. In addition, photo-based experiments in the Tropical House at Wave Hill will be transformed into video paintings with audio collages sourced from locations nearby including Spuyten Duyvil Creek, the Hudson River, and the Harlem River, which will also be available via QR code.



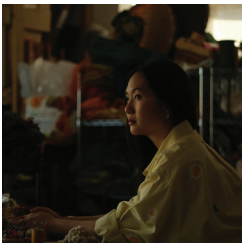
SuRan Song. Photo: Anastasia Song.  
William M. Weis III. Courtesy of the artist.

### May 31 – July 13, 2025

**Sonja John's** *Floral Larceny* references Wave Hill's tropical plant collection and aquatic garden alongside the artist's family photos that represent their migrations from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Philippines to the United States. Using cut and collaged mylar to cover the Sunroom's windows, the artist creates stained glass effects that transform the perception of light and temperature within the space. The window installations are paired with hanging stencils of Jade Vine (*Strongylodon macrobotrys*), also found in Wave Hill's Tropical House, as well as screen-printed wallpaper referencing the agricultural produce of her family's homeland gardens. John aims to erode anthropomorphic and colonial tendencies that consider human labor and culture as separate from the natural environment.



Sonja John. Photo: Carolina Porras-Monroy



Credit: Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya.  
Photo: Jihe Peng.

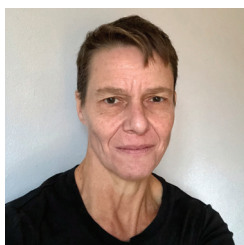
Drawing from her Thai roots and ancestral artisanal traditions, **Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya's** Sun Porch installation, *What we hold in time's tender keeping*, weaves a narrative of migration, rebirth, and symbiosis in the form of a suspended canopy of intricately knotted and braided fibers. Meditating on the bonds between the human spirit and elements of the earth, the installation manifests as a cascading tapestry sculpted to evoke the silhouette of a Thai spirit house that honors the spiritual and ancestral realm while exploring themes of grounding, transience, and regeneration. Within this verdant grove, *What we hold in time's tender keeping* invites viewers to immerse themselves in the cyclical rhythms of the natural world, to reflect on our innate capacity for renewal, and to embrace the nourishing power of ancestral rootedness—a sublime alchemy of physical and spiritual realms.

## July 19 – September 1, 2025

In the Sunroom, **Monica Duncan** presents *Breathing as...*, a video and performance that is based in part on the plants in Wave Hill's Alpine House and the history of camouflage studies in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx. Through choreography, image compositing, video projection, and sound, the artist attempts to embody a rocky habitat—becoming plant, rock, lichen to name a few, while incorporating movement and image-making to listen and learn from this organic matter. Duncan will also create field recordings using stereo and geophone microphones to capture the sonic ecosystem above and below ground as the soundscape for the exhibition, as well as experiment with creating performative text scores and instructions to embody this habitat and de-center human presence.



Monica Duncan.  
Photo: Dean Erdmann.



Jennifer Tobias.  
Courtesy of the artist.

**Jennifer Tobias'** Sun Porch installation, *Swords and Plowshares*, directly engages Wave Hill's history. Based on research on Wave Hill resident Bashford Dean (1867–1928) who built Armor Hall to house his armor collection in Wave Hill House and applied his knowledge to the design of helmets and armor for modern, mechanized warfare, Tobias' sculptural installation consists of human-fish armor hybrids constructed from cardboard. A wall panel introduces visitors to Dean as a scholar, curator, and NYC resident through text and documentary images, accompanied by a leaflet that invites visitors to seek out Armor Hall as well as Atlas Poppies (*Papaver atlanticum*) in the Wild Garden, flowers that evoke the wild poppies (*Papaver rhoea*) of World War I battlefields.

## September 20 - November 2, 2025

**Caroline Garcia's** Sunroom exhibition, *Tropical Dissent*, expands on research that the artist originally conducted at Wave Hill as a Winter Workspace resident in 2022, when she was inspired by ethnobotany of the Philippines and the native plants growing at Wave Hill to explore toxic plants used to make arrow poison. For her 2025 Sunroom exhibition, Garcia explores the Indigenous history of the area now known as Wave Hill, focusing on the unique tools and weapons used by the First Americans—crafted from natural materials sourced from their environment. To add a contemporary layer, the artist introduces plastic, one of the most common materials available today, into this body of work. Interweaving contemporary materials with Indigenous practices, the artist merges a historical narrative within a contemporary context, while experimenting with techniques and materials that reflect on colonial histories in relationship to botany, resistance, and self-defense.



Caroline Garcia. Photo: Alex Wisser.

**Magdalena Dukiewicz's** Sun Porch exhibition translates data on Brownfield distribution—underused land contaminated by industrial or commercial activities—along with pollution levels and socio-economic indicators, into an auditory experience that mirrors environmental conditions and social dynamics. Drawing inspiration from the diverse soundscape of the city and the rich tapestry of its communities, the installation envisions a post-apocalyptic landscape where mushrooms thrive amidst a junkyard aesthetic, accompanied by an interactive sound installation to create a multi-sensory experience. Central to the exhibition experience is the use of MIDI devices and conductive copper wires, which allow visitors to trigger sounds representing different data and to become active participants in the creation of a cacophonous orchestra.



Magdalena Dukiewicz.  
Courtesy of the artist.

**About the selection panel:** Born in Santiago de los Treinta Caballeros, Dominican Republic and based in the South Bronx, **Nicolás Dumit Estévez Raful Espejo Ovalles** is an artist, researcher, and curator, whose practice treads an elusive path that manifests itself performatively or through experiences where the quotidian and art overlap. He has exhibited and performed extensively in the U.S. as well as internationally. Nicolás is also the creator of Interior Beauty Salon, a non-physical arts space for ritual, ceremony, rites of passage, healing, and process melding art. **Jordany Genao** is an interdisciplinary artist and educator based in Queens, NY (Lenapehoking), whose work explores the visual and historical connections between Arawak-Taino cosmology, ceramics, Caribbean plants, and queerness. In 2024, Genao presented *Espíritu de sabor* in Wave Hill's Sunroom Project Space. **Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger** is the Curator of Visual Arts at Wave Hill with a focus on place-based practices around sociocultural themes.

#### Press Contact

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#### About Wave Hill

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, 10AM–5:30PM. Marco Polo Stufano Conservatory 10AM–Noon/1–4PM.

ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS: \$10 adults, \$6 students and seniors 65+, \$4 children 6-18. Free Thursdays.

Free to Wave Hill Members, children under 6.

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