

Images Available Upon Request

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Wave Hill Announces the Garden's 2023 Van Lier Fellows

The New York Community Trust's Fund Supports Careers of Underrepresented, Emerging Artists

Bronx, NY, February 14, 2023— Wave Hill is thrilled to announce the 2023 New York Community Trust Van Lier Fellows, Jill Cohen-Nuñez and Max Sarmiento. They bring distinct perspectives to the garden as they reflect on how we engage with the natural world. Wave Hill is proud to support these two artists as their work continues to explore the ways in which nature, culture and art are deeply connected. During their culminating exhibitions, Cohen-Nuñez and Sarmiento will each participate in a Meet the Artist event, in which they will be in conversation with a member of the curatorial team.

Through the generous support of the New York Community Trust's Edward and Sally Van Lier Fund, Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, offers a yearlong fellowship for two emerging artists. The Van Lier Fellowship provides critical, early-career support for artists who are from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds. In addition to access to the gardens' living collection, Fellows are given financial support, studio space onsite for six weeks as part of Wave Hill's annual Winter Workspace program and a solo exhibition in the Sunroom Project Space, as well as mentorship and professional development opportunities.

Jill Cohen-Nuñez

Exhibition: August 19–October 1, 2023

Jill Cohen-Nuñez creates installations, performances and sculptures that honor their Dominican and Jewish ancestry and explore the body as a site of offering. As part of the Winter Workspace residency, Cohen-Nuñez will research herbal remedies that utilize plants in Wave Hill's various gardens. Coming from a lineage of curanderas (Spanish for "healers"), Cohen-Nuñez documents plant-based remedies that would otherwise be lost if not recorded for



Jill Cohen-Nuñez. Photo courtesy of the artist.

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the next generation. This research and documentation will form the basis for their installation, in which Cohen-Nuñez will transform the space into an interactive sound garden. In the Sun Porch, clay bodies will commune on top of a grass mound with ceramic chimes and gourds lining the edges. Through these invitations into bodily connection to the earth and the ancestral, the artist creates a space for ritual stillness.

Cohen-Nuñez is a Dominican-American artist from the Bronx. They received a BA in Studio Art from CUNY City College in 2020, and have received grants and scholarships from Haverford College, Connor Merit Awards and a NYFA City Artist Corps Grant. They have participated in residencies at The Newark Print Shop, Manhattan Graphics Center, MASS MoCA, Chashama and Modern Art Foundry. Cohen-Nuñez has exhibited at the National Sculpture Society, BronxArtSpace, Center for Performance Research, Fordham University, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art and Dance, The New York Botanical Garden and the Jane Hartsook Gallery at the Greenwich House.

Max Sarmiento

Exhibition: August 19–October 1, 2023

Max Sarmiento creates mixed-media tableaux that capture stories of quotidian life in New York City, where he currently resides, and Ecuador, where he was raised. Merging scenes of the pastoral, urban and magical, his memories traverse worlds and collapse the distance between them into a new form of personal folklore. During the Winter Workspace Program, Sarmiento will experiment with materials and scale up his work to create an installation in the Sunroom Project Space that will incorporate life-size and interactive dioramas inspired by Wave Hill's gardens.



Max Sarmiento. Photo courtesy of the artist.

Based in Queens, NY, Sarmiento is a self-taught artist working in a variety of materials, such as fabric, foam, glass, paper, paint and wood. Before becoming an artist, he pursued a career in architecture, where he picked up many skills that would later translate into his practice. Sarmiento's work has been exhibited in galleries and spaces throughout New York, including Dinner Gallery, Independent Art Fair, Chashama, SVA Chelsea Gallery and La Bodega Gallery.

The curatorial team at Wave Hill includes Gabriel de Guzman, Director of Arts and Chief Curator; Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, Curator of Visual Arts; and Cecilia Lu, Curatorial Assistant.

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The Edward and Sally Van Lier Artist Fellowship is supported by The New York Community Trust. Additional support for the Arts Program is provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs; New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature; Pollock-Krasner Foundation; and by the Cathy and Stephen Weinroth Commissioning Fund for the Arts.

Wave Hill Incorporated is an independent non-profit cultural institution governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. The City of New York owns the buildings and grounds of Wave Hill. 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; the National Endowment for the Arts; and New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



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. Glyndor Gallery hours: 10AM–4:30PM.

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.

DIRECTIONS at wavehill.org.

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