



WAVE HILL SUNROOMPROJECTSPACE

August 19 - October 1, 2023

JILL COHEN-NUÑEZ

wait in the garden

JILL COHEN-NUÑEZ

Born 1992, New York, NY
Lives and works in the Bronx, NY

wait in the garden, 2023 (detail)
Raku ceramic, cedar wood, maple wood,
glass, concrete, ceramic, stone and clay
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist
Photo: Stephanie Ayala

Jill Cohen-Nuñez is a Dominican-American Bronx-based artist who works in mixed-media sculpture, installation, performance and sound to create works that center the body as a site of offering. In *wait in the garden*, the artist draws inspiration from an array of sources, including profane and sacred symbols and objects, handmade musical instruments, syncretic religions, the tradition of stacking stones on gravesites, Jewish and Dominican folklore and the natural world.

Grounded in a desire to investigate memory and the formation of ritual, *wait in the garden* reflects on the profound connections between nature and grief to expand on cultural stories on the loss of land, knowledge and roots. At the center of the installation is a carved cedar-wood beam representing an immutably powerful mystique surrounded by corporeal forms, rocks amassed in the Bronx and glass and ceramic chimes. Shaped into an intimate sound garden, the site is imbued with the protective energy of guardians to provide a space for reckoning.

Spiral symbols and otherworldly references draw from the artist's cultural heritage and ancestral healing rituals that have been passed down over generations. Among the most prevalent of sacred signs, spiral shapes span from pre-historic times to land art and contemporary art. The universe begins with roundness, the sacred dance is circular, and death brings life full circle. Memory, identity and imaginaries coalesce in a continuum of interconnected energy that circulates in *wait in the garden*, blending formal and process-based explorations in a stimulating environment for reflection and stillness.

Jill Cohen-Nuñez is a 2023 New York Community Trust Van Lier Fellow at Wave Hill. They earned a BA in studio art from CUNY City College in 2020, and have been awarded grants and scholarships from Haverford College, a Connor Merit Award and a NYFA City Artist Corps Grant. Cohen-Nuñez has participated in residencies at The Newark Print Shop, Manhattan Graphics Center, MASS MoCA, Chashama and Modern Art Foundry. Their work has been exhibited at the National Sculpture Society, BronxArtSpace, Center for Performance Research, Fordham University, BAAD! Bronx Academy of Art and Dance, New York Botanical Garden and Jane Hartsook Gallery at Greenwich House.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: SAT, SEP 30, 2 PM: *Meet the Sunroom Artists*

Organized by Curator of Visual Arts Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for New York-area emerging artists to develop and exhibit a site-specific project as a solo show. The 2023 season features, consecutively, Jae Hi Ahn, Jacq Groves, Grace Sach Troxell, Jill Cohen-Nuñez, Max Benjamin Sarmiento and Bel Falleiros.

THE SUNROOM PROJECT SPACE IS SUPPORTED BY THE MILTON AND SALLY AVERY ARTS FOUNDATION; NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS; NEW YORK COMMUNITY TRUST EDWARD AND SALLY VAN LIER FUND; AND POLLOCK-KRASNER FOUNDATION. 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; RUTH FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS; AND BY CATHY AND STEPHEN WEINROTH COMMISSIONING FUND FOR THE ARTS.



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