



WAVE HILL SUNROOMPROJECTSPACE

June 17–August 6, 2023 **JACQ GROVES** *tending to change*

JACQ GROVES

Born in Denver, CO
Lives in Queens, NY

tending to change, 2023 (detail)
Metal, wood, ceramics, stained glass,
mirror, sunlight, waxed thread, magnets,
plant matter, and bottles of plant extracts
Dimensions variable
Courtesy of the artist

In *tending to change*, Jacq Groves honors materially diverse processes of transformation and the care to incite change. Incorporating traditional, industrial and plant materials, and their interactions with the site, Groves' sculptural practice explores spatial and temporal experiences of the body and investigates alternative forms of knowledge production and healing.

Through strategies of abstraction and defamiliarization, Groves asks what it means to care for a living body in a socially-constructed environment. Hand-formed ceramics resemble microscopic cellular organelles inspired by Etruscan votive viscera, endowed with passageways linking the interiority of the body to the external world. Displayed on stained glass supported by metal armatures and wood bases, their design inverts microscopy; bodily forms are conferred as tangible embodiments of memory, not as anonymized biology samples under glass. Altars of medicinal plants in dried form and liquid extract, highlight our relationship to the soil and its capacity to aid the transformative shifts in body and mind. A loose ceramic weaving that mimics patterns of cells in the process of regeneration serves as a porous partitioning of the meaningful differences between hostile architecture and inclusive design. And intimately scaled ceramic archways replicating the windows that frame nature as spectacle, invite us to turn our gaze inward instead.

Informed by scientific inquiry and its discontents, *tending to change* resists heteronormative ideals drawing extensively from research into Etruscan healing rituals and Anglo-European folk remedies, modalities indebted to Indigenous plant medicine. Disregarded as esoteric practices that fall outside of Western logic systems, herbalism follows traditions of pre-capitalist societies, maintains relationships between people and land and is accessible. Groves taps into this revolutionary potential to affirm lived experience, strengthen bodily autonomy and complicate binaries by reminding us of our symbiotic relationship to nature. Combined, the material reactions in the exhibition challenge the hierarchies between nature/culture, internal/external and imperceptible/recognizable forms of bodily knowledge and classification, offering a vow to consider reimagining as nourishment while encapsulating the passage of time and the impermanence of our bodily existence.

Jacq Groves is an artist and educator whose work has been exhibited in New York venues, including Essex Flowers, Half Gallery, The Jewish Museum and NARS Foundation. Groves earned an MFA from Columbia University.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: SAT, JUN 17, 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 Troxell, Jill Cohen-Nuñez, Max 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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