



WAVE HILL SUNROOMPROJECTSPACE

September 20 – November 2, 2025

CAROLINE GARCIA

Versus Earth

CAROLINE GARCIA

Born in Sydney, Australia
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Versus Earth (detail), 2025, mixed media installation with reclaimed plastic collected from the Bronx.
Courtesy of the artist.

Working across performance, moving image, and installation, Caroline Garcia's interdisciplinary practice weaves ethno-traditional knowledge with contemporary digital technologies. In *Versus Earth*, she explores the history of the area now known as Wave Hill through the Indigenous tools and weapons of the First Americans—crafted from natural materials drawn from their immediate environment.

The exhibition draws on Garcia's martial arts practice, as well as research that began during her 2022 Wave Hill Winter Workspace residency, where she studied native plants, including toxic species used to make poison arrows. Inspired by Indigenous weaponry across cultures, she reimagines arrowheads, spears, and war clubs customary to the Ramapo Munsee Lenape Nation—traditionally made from wood and stone—in brightly colored plastics. At the center of the exhibition, amorphous bioplastic forms are suspended in space alongside projectiles.

Today, plastic is among the most ubiquitous materials in our surroundings. Sourced from the Earth, fossil fuels are formed over millions of years from ancient organic matter. In July alone, 3,965 tons of recyclable plastic, metal, glass, and beverage cartons were reportedly collected from Bronx residences and institutions serviced by the NYC Department of Sanitation. Garcia uses this context to reflect on the paradox of plastic: a product of ancient geological processes that now threatens the planet's future.

The title *Versus Earth* plays on the meaning of “versus” as against, recognizing plastic's pervasive environmental threat. Yet Garcia complicates this narrative: She imbues the colorful material with spirit, motion, and a living connection to the earth. Her sculptural weapons are not just objects of defense—they are ceremonial, symbolic, and spiritual responses to colonization, ecological exploitation, and the domination of Indigenous lands for economic gain. Interweaving Indigenous artifacts and ancient practices, Garcia unsettles assumed hierarchies offering instead a reordering of the world and its resources.

Garcia has exhibited internationally in New York, Australia, Philippines, Hong Kong, Greece, Germany, and Austria. Awards include the Jerome Hill Artist Fellowship in Tech Centered Arts, an NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in Digital/Electronic Arts, Franklin Furnace Fund, and the American Australian Association's AUSART Fellowship. She has held residencies at the Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center, International Studio and Curatorial Program, Pioneer Works, Recess Arts, Wave Hill, and Lower Manhattan Cultural Center, all in New York. Garcia earned an MFA from Parsons–The New School.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: Sat, Oct 25, 1:45PM, Meet the Artist: Caroline Garcia in conversation with Gary Dušek, founder of Precious Plastic NYC and director of the Waste Reclamation Action Program.

Organized by Curator of Visual Arts Rachel Raphaela Gugelberger, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for emerging artists in the New York City area to develop and present a site-specific project as a solo exhibition. The 2025 season features Sonja John, Amanda Phingbodhipakkiya, SuRan Song & William M. Weis III, Monica Duncan, Jennifer Tobias, Caroline Garcia and Magdalena Dukiewicz, consecutively.

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