



**WAVE HILL SUNROOMPROJECTSPACE**

July 16–August 28, 2022

**HEIDI NORTON**

*The Edges of Everything*

## HEIDI NORTON

Born 1977, Baltimore, MD  
Lives in Brooklyn, NY

*The Edges of Everything*, 2022

Backlit film, glass, wax, resin, live plants  
Site-specific installation, dimensions variable  
Courtesy of the artist

Heidi Norton's installation examines the connections between humans and the natural world. Inspired by Wave Hill's grounds and the Sun Porch's architecture, Norton's site-specific project comprises sculptures and large, vibrant photographic scrolls draping from the ceiling and undulating through the space, activated by sunlight. The configuration of scrolls encompasses landscapes present and past, incorporating recent photos that Norton took of the gardens, as well as archival images. Flowers and other organic materials are displayed in glass panes and encased in wax, calling to mind specimen slides of living matter that changes over time. Investigating ideas of preservation, Norton's work explores the instability of the present and the states of transition between one stage and the next, drawing parallels to mythologies of origin, decay and death.

The exhibition title, *The Edges of Everything*, is inspired by a Wave Hill gardener's description of the importance of details and nuances in tending to the grounds. It also refers to the zones of interaction in nature or the edge between life and death. Drawing parallels to the multi-sensorial approach of a gardener, Norton asks, "What happens when we consciously shift our perspective from the middle-distance to the minutia to notice the spaces in between and around?" By working with living material and embracing chance, Norton acknowledges the symbiotic yet often chaotic relationship between humans, plants and other living creatures. In this way, she relinquishes control and embraces the changes that continue to happen slowly and almost imperceptibly in each work. The waves in Norton's works call to mind the concept of *Umwelt*, vibrations of energy that can be sensed by animals, but not by humans. The work serves as a metaphor for the invisible elements of the natural world and life's impermanence, as well as birth and regeneration.

Norton's work draws on her rural upbringing by New Age homesteaders. She uses discarded plant clippings from Wave Hill's gardens, repurposes compost and deconstructs past work, incorporating it into new pieces. By upcycling in this way, Norton speaks to sustainability and contemplates how memories are embedded in materials and landscapes, as well as how a sense of place is recorded through time and changes in the land.

An artist and writer, Norton has had solo exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Lubeznik Museum, and Elmhurst Art Museum, among others. Select group exhibitions include Sargent's Daughters, GRIMM, The Contemporary in Baltimore, Swale House at Governors Island, the Knitting Factory, Chicago Cultural Center, and La Box, National School of Art, France. Her writings and work are included in *Artnet*, *Art21*, *BOMB* and *Frieze Magazine*. She is founder and director of *Vantage Points*, an art education and portfolio development service. She earned a BFA from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, and an MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

### PUBLIC PROGRAM: SUN, JUL 24, 3 PM, *Meet the Artist*

Organized by Senior Curator of Visual Arts Eileen Jeng Lynch, 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 2022 season features, consecutively, Kevin Quiles Bonilla, Anina Major, Krystal DiFronzo, Heidi Norton, Deep Pool and Amina Ross.

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