Wave Hill and Lehman College Art Gallery Announce Exhibition 
Eco-Urgency: Now or Never 
At Wave Hill: August 28–December 5, 2021 
At Lehman College Art Gallery: December 4, 2021–April 23, 2022 

Bronx, NY, July 7, 2021—Wave Hill, a public garden and cultural center in the Bronx, and Lehman College Art Gallery, City University of New York, are pleased to announce Eco-Urgency: Now or Never, a collaborative exhibition that shows the varied responses artists have to the unfolding ecological crisis. This two-part exhibition opens August 28, 2021, at Wave Hill. Part two opens at Lehman College Art Gallery on December 4. Visit our website for more info: https://www.wavehill.org/calendar/eco-urgency-now-or-never

Climate change, pollution, competition for natural resources and food insecurity threaten to overwhelm our planet and make earth uninhabitable. To encourage public engagement and deepen awareness of these issues, the artists in Eco-Urgency: Now or Never rely on research, critical analysis, observation and direct action that manifest as objects, videos, performances and community organizing. There are no easy answers, yet Eco-Urgency: Now or Never distills the current moment so that it can be approached, understood and acted on, provoking conversation and shared ideas.

The first part of the collaborative exhibition, Now, brings together artists who are looking at the urgency of the present moment, raising awareness through a holistic approach to understanding our ecological crises, including overlapping social, political and environmental concerns. Or Never, the second part of the project, at Lehman College Art Gallery, is both speculative and reflective, treating our ecological crises as a cycle that repeats itself endlessly. Here, artists examine the resonant patterns of history that have shaped and led us to our current moment alongside possible and causal futures.

Unfolding over a period of eight months, the exhibition and related public programs engage in research
across multiple seasons. The work of several of the artists in the show will appear in both venues, deepening the connections between the two galleries. Both parts of the exhibition investigate a series of overlapping thematic inquiries that preoccupy artists today. These include:

- **Depicting Imminent Change**—Imagining apocalyptic climate catastrophe, artists propose ideas for mitigating the resulting damages and impacts of ongoing environmental changes.
- **Politics and the Land**—Artists explore the impact of political and economic policies on natural resources, considering the land as witness to devastation, and the social health inequities exacerbated by unequal distribution of resources.
- **Stewardship**—Focusing on the urge to collect, archive and preserve, artists promote strategies for reducing consumption and working toward a more equitable and sustainable way of living.
- **Decentering Human Experience**—Artists posit the importance of non-human perspective, and of rethinking humans as both a determinative force embedded in, and standing apart from, the natural world.
- **Grief**—A growing body of artistic work is mournful or elegiac, prompting questions about what it means to memorialize what is already lost, or what is about to be lost.


**Eco-Urgency: Now or Never** is co-organized by Wave Hill and Lehman College Art Gallery, The City University of New York, and is curated by Bartholomew Bland, Gabriel de Guzman, Jesse Bandler Firestone, Eileen Jeng Lynch and Deborah Yasinsky. The curatorial concept for the exhibition was initiated with Jennifer McGregor, former Director of Arts at Wave Hill. A two-part catalogue devoted to the *Now or Never* portions of the exhibition will include essays and entries about each artist by the contributing curators. Learn more about Wave Hill exhibitions here: [https://www.wavehill.org/discover/arts/exhibitions](https://www.wavehill.org/discover/arts/exhibitions)
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, currently Tuesday–Sunday, 10AM–5:30PM.

**ADMISSION TO THE GROUNDS:** $10 adults, $6 students and seniors 65+, $4 children 6-18. Free Thursdays. Free to members, children under 6. **Reservations recommended before you visit** at wavehill.org or by calling 718.549.3200 x251.

**DIRECTIONS:** Complete directions at [wavehill.org](http://wavehill.org).

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