



Garden Improvement

June 11-August 27, 2006 Wave Hill Glyndor Gallery

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Joan Bankemper

Karen Rich Beall

Jimbo Blachly & Lytle Shaw

Laure Drogoul

Charles Goldman

Paula Hayes

Marguerite Kahrl with Paul Ruff

Catarina Leitão

Cassandra Lozano

Philip Ross

Rachel Selekman

Austin Thomas

Andy Yoder

To many visitors Wave Hill is a utopian garden, a place to seek ideas and inspiration. *Garden Improvement* poses an alternate view of the relationship between people and nature by looking at how a garden can be made more inhabitable, personal, and domesticated. The exhibition brings together idiosyncratic, do-it-yourself ideas born from the artists' spirit of invention, rather than by design. All thirteen projects were created specifically for Wave Hill. The five outdoor works suggest practical ways to make the most of outdoor space, while the eight projects in the gallery display a range of urbanite responses to bringing the garden indoors. Self-reliance, portability, and attention to the environment are introduced in works by Kahrl & Ruff, Goldman, Leitão, and Ross. Interventions by Yoder and Thomas spotlight the garden as a gathering place. Hayes creates an indoor garden, while Drogoul preserves the scents of the garden for indoor examination. Beall, Lozano, and Selekman use plants or garden tools as a departure point in their sculptural transformation of domestic spaces. Blachly and Shaw invite visitors to imagine a fantastical way to *improve* Wave Hill, a site that has been shaped by so many individuals over the past 150 years. — JENNIFER MCGREGOR, Curator



RACHEL SELEKMAN

Born 1963, Boston, MA

Lives in Brooklyn, NY

Altered Can 1, 2006

watering cans, epoxy, cable
14" x 21 3/4" x 25"

Altered Can 2, 2006

watering can, fabric, ribbon
wire, thread, epoxy, Velcro
16" x 100" x 115" variable



Silver Spray, 2006

watering cans, silicone, epoxy, chord, cable
77" x 68" x 68"

All works courtesy of the artist and Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York, NY

For the past decade Rachel Selekman has incorporated both watering cans and purse clasps into elegant sculptures that frequently suspend in space. With this suite she anthropomorphizes the watering can, a basic garden tool that enables plants to flourish indoors and out. Glittering streams of thread flow from a fecund, multi-spouted can, while a third rests on the floor with octopus-like tendrils reaching across the floor. Playful associations can be made between the spouts and putti fountain statuary or fertility statues. Located on the sun porch, a space that connects the indoors with the garden, her installation takes on a humorous tone suggesting that the tools have taken on a life of their own.

Rachel Selekman has had solo exhibitions at Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York, NY; Galerie Aurel Scheibler, Cologne, Germany; and Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, Wilmington, DE. She has participated in group exhibitions at Dorsky Gallery Curatorial Programs, Long Island City, NY; Rotunda Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; and Museo d'Arte, Universidad Nacional, Bogota, Colombia, among other places. She received a grant from The Pollock-Krasner Foundation and earned a BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD, and MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL. www.priskajuschkafineart.com/artists.php