

OAK SPRING: SEEDING ARTISTS

FEBRUARY 7 - MAY 24, 2025

HODGES & COMMUNITY GALLERIES

No food or drinks permitted in the galleries at any time at the request of the lending foundation.



Fátima Zagonel
Completed Drawing of Pelargonium (Cynthia Unique)
2022

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Driving back and forth between the Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, VA, and Appalachian State University in Boone, NC, one gets a sense of the landscape traversing the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, especially if one forgoes the interstate for the backroads and blue highways, or the legendary Blue Ridge Parkway which encourages more leisurely meanderings. A small segment of the extensive Appalachian Mountains, the Blue Ridge Mountains, extend from Carlisle, Pennsylvania through Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, North and South Carolina to Mount Oglethorpe in Georgia. The Blue Ridge is slight in comparison to other mountain ranges, just between five miles at its narrowest to 70 miles across at its widest in North Carolina, with average elevations between 2,000 and 4,000 feet before reaching its highest elevation at Mount Mitchell at over 6,600 feet. Both the Oak Spring Garden Foundation (OSGF) in Upperville and Appalachian State University in Boone are tucked into these intensely beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains; both institutions share a commitment to the preservation of the landscape.

Rachel (Bunny) Lambert Mellon (1910 – 2014) - heiress, horticulturist, art and rare book collector, and philanthropist - and her second husband - the philanthropist, art collector, horse breeder and champion trail rider - Paul Mellon (1907-1999), were lifelong supporters of the arts and environmental causes. The Oak Spring Garden Foundation is one of the many legacy gifts of Mrs. Mellon. First, she built the Oak Spring Garden Library to house her growing collections of rare books, manuscripts, and art – focused primarily on the art and culture of landscapes, gardens, and plants. Then in 1993, she established the Oak Spring Garden Foundation with the specific purpose of sharing her extensive collection, which dates to the 14th century, as a resource for scholars and artists. Bunny Mellon cultivated her library with the same care she cultivated her gardens, providing resources that would ensure both would be available in perpetuity. Her horticultural legacy continues as the Foundation currently offers residencies and fellowships to artists, writers, scholars, and researchers whose work is influenced by nature and “that speaks to our relationship with the natural world,” to cultivate their creative practices at Oak Spring. Much of the artwork by the residents has been collected by the library and exhibited in the Gallery. Originally called the “Memory House,” the Oak Spring Gallery was built in 2011, when Bunny Mellon was 100 years old and still supporting the arts and tending her gardens.

The 700-acre Oak Spring Garden Foundation is nestled between the Bull Run and Blue Ridge Mountains, extending to both sides of Rokeby Road (State Route 623). It includes both Little Oak Spring where the primary Mellon family estate and famous formal gardens can be found, with Rokeby Farm on the other side of the road that includes a biocultural conservation farm and garden and the buildings that encompass the artists residency studios and homes. The landscape that now hosts Oak Spring Garden existed long before it was inhabited by people. As the Foundation notes, “Successive human occupants have all left their mark. The long Native American presence was almost extinguished by European colonization, and after the Civil War, with the collapse of the slave-based agriculture economy, the equine pursuits of the Virginian Hunt Country came to the fore. Today, protected by conservation easements and planning restrictions, northern Fauquier County is a haven for plant and animal life.”

The Mellons would agree that the act of creation is a tangible belief in the future; that art, writing (both fiction and non-fiction), and poetry are acts of regeneration and cultural memory, much needed as we seek solutions to the climate crisis in relationships of reciprocity.

The Turchin Center is pleased to host an exhibition of works showcasing the work of many of the resident artists supported by the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. Since 2018, the Foundation has hosted over 120 residents. Their programs include the Interdisciplinary Residency, Botanical Artist Residency, Plant Conservation Science Fellowship, Plant Science Research Fellowship, Stacy Lloyd Fellowship for Bibliographic Studies, and the Eliza Moore Fellowship for Artistic Excellence. As Sir Peter Crane, president of the OSGF has written, the mandate of the Foundation is “to use this remarkable legacy to serve the public interest—by facilitating scholarship, inspiring public dialogue, and encouraging meaningful engagement with the history and future of plants - including especially their contributions to human well-being and significance in the culture of gardens and landscapes.”

The staff at the Turchin Center encourages visitors to engage with the works of art - many about plants and their impact on our lives - that are on display in the galleries, and to spend time in the small community library before going back into your own wild landscapes and cultivated gardens here in the High Country to create your own artwork and gardens.

The staff at the Turchin Center is indebted to everyone at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation for their enthusiastic support of this exhibition. A special thank you to Sir Peter Crane, President of the Foundation for giving his blessings to sharing the creative work of the resident artists with the extended Appalachian State University community. Danielle Eady, Program Director; Tony Willis, Head Librarian; and Carter Hulinsky, Metadata Librarian and Special Collections Cataloger at the Foundation were instrumental in shaping the exhibition.

All the quotes were taken from the Oak Spring Garden Foundation brochure and/or website.

— Mary Anne Redding, Senior Curator

Akiko Enokido
Poncirus Trifoliata (hardy orange)
2019



ARTISTS IN THE EXHIBITION

Artists' names are hyperlinked to their respective pages.

LATIFAT APATIRA

DOUGLAS PIERRE BAULOS

BRIEN BEIDLER

ALESSANDRO ALE CANDIDO

MADDISON COLVIN

DOUGLAS DALE

JESSICA DALRYMPLE

CRYSTAL DRIEDGER

MELISSA DESA

JEAN EMMONS

AKIKO ENOKIDO

MADGE EVERS

HILLARY WATERS FAYLE

FIDENCIO FIFIELD-PEREZ

KATE KLINGBEIL

ASUKA HISHIKI

ELLIE IRONS

MIEKO ISHIKAWA

DINORÁ JUSTICE



CALDER KAMIN

SUZY KOPF

AIMEE LEE

OLIVIA CLAIRE MENDOZA

ELIZA LLOYD MOORE

FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ MURILLO

IRINA NEACȘU

HENRY OBENG

JOHN PASTORIZA-PIÑOL

KANDIS VERMEER PHILLIPS

MARIA ALICE DE REZENDE

LORENA CRUZ SANTIAGO

JENNIFER KATHLEEN SCHEUER

ELAINE SEARLE

KEIKO NIBU TARVER


AUTUMN VON PLINSKY

CAROL WOODIN

ELIZABETH WEBB

ARZU YAYINTAŞ

FÁTIMA ZAGONEL



Inspired by
Fidencio Fifield-Perez
Clear Cut
2021

LATIFAT APATIRA

Based in San Francisco, California, Latifat Apatira is a visual artist exploring botanical printmaking and watercolors. A practicing physician, Apatira's interest in printmaking emerged after taking a workshop on nature printing in 2019. On her website, she describes her practice, "As a Muslim woman, my faith is embedded into my creativity. The intention behind my work is to cultivate an ever-deepening admiration for the wonder that is the botanical world." Learn more about Latifat Apatira [here](#).

DOUGLAS PIERRE BAULOS

Douglas Pierre Baulos
Portrait Book
2023

From their urban studio in downtown Birmingham, Alabama, artist Doug Baulos creates rich and earthy installations from found objects as well as homemade textiles and pigments. The University of Alabama, Birmingham, Assistant Professor of Drawing has built an impressive career as a fine artist, with previous exhibits at the Kyoto Art Center in Kyoto, Japan, and a recent exhibition at the Shelby County Arts Center titled Root, Branch, and Star. Baulos's hand-bound books, mixed-media installations, and woven work are grounded in themes of nature, mortality, and loss but feel hauntingly fragile — beautiful with a delicate darkness. Baulos shares their sources of inspiration and how they hope to inspire young artists in the South. Learn more about Doug Baulos [here](#).



BRIEN BEIDLER

Based in St. Paul, Minnesota, Brien Beidler is a bookbinder and toolmaker exploring the structure, aesthetics, and impact of pre-industrial bindings in a 21st century context. In Beidler's practice, bookbinding and toolmaking work in parallel to investigate the role books have played in the history of ideas and other facets of cultural history. Beidler is deeply inspired by the processes of historic bookbinders and uses tools and techniques that replicate the structural and visual properties of the books they made. In his toolmaking, Beidler specializes in hand-engraved finishing tools and other decorative stamps for bookbinders, leatherworkers, and woodworkers. See a video of his process [here](#). Beidler also teaches workshops in bookbinding, gold tooling with egg glair, and finishing tool making, and is on the board of Co-Directors for the [Paper and Book Intensive](#). He holds an undergraduate degree in chemistry from the College of Charleston, where he was first introduced to bookbinding in the library's Special Collections. He was the Director of the Bindery and Conservation Lab at the Charleston Library Society from 2012-2016 before establishing his own practice. Learn more about Brien Beidler's residency at Oak Spring [here](#) and listen to an interview he was featured in on the [Oak Spring Podcast](#).

Brien Beidler
Series IV
2021



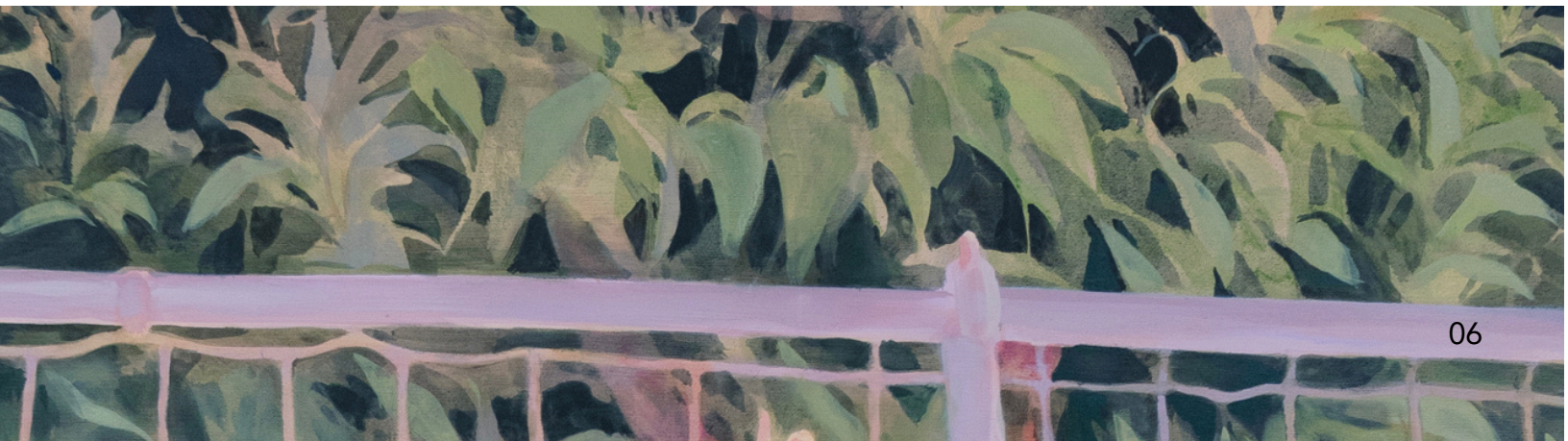
ALESSANDRO ALE CÂNDIDO

Alessandro Ale Cândido is a botanical illustrator based in the Southeastern state of Paraná, Brazil. Cândido has a formal education in biology; in 2014 he began coursework in botanical illustration. His background in biology continues to inform his work and practice, and he primarily paints watercolors of the flora of Brazil and central South America. Cândido has been featured in a number of botanical art exhibitions; he was awarded the Margaret Mee Botanical Fellowship at Kew Royal Botanical Gardens in the United Kingdom in 2016. View his work on the [Centro de Ilustração Botânica do Paraná](#) and on [Instagram](#).

MADDISON COLVIN

Maddison Colvin is an interdisciplinary visual artist residing in Orem, Utah. Her work focuses on themes of ecology, the built environment, and communal knowledge, and spans media from painting to video game design. Her project for the Eliza Moore Fellowship at Oak Spring, titled *Eden(s)*, explores humankind's visual, aesthetic, and cultural responses to gardens by weaving together essays, photographs, drawings, paintings, and facsimiles of other botanical work into an artist's book. Colvin holds a BA from Whitworth University and an MFA from Brigham Young University where she is now the Manager of the Art Department. Learn more about Maddison [here](#), and read [this interview](#) with her on the Oak Spring blog.

Madison Colvin
Orchard II
2023



DOUGLAS DALE

Douglas Dale was born in Springfield, Massachusetts in 1993. They received their BA from Grinnell College in 2015 with honors and spent time at Sorbonne Université in Paris, France. They have worked at MASS MoCA in North Adams, the textile studio Carolyn Ray Inc. in Yonkers, and at the product incubator FCTRY in Brooklyn. Their work has been exhibited in numerous solo and group shows including at Fiber Art Now, the American Craft Council, Craft Alliance, the Sebastopol Center for the Arts California, the Galesburg Civic Art Center, the North Dakota Museum of Art, the Center for the Visual Arts of Wausau Wisconsin, and the World Trade Center in Manhattan. Dale is trans non-binary and currently lives and works in St. Louis, Missouri. Learn more about Douglas Dale [here](#).

JESSICA DALRYMPLE

Jessica Dalrymple
Selected Weed: Mullein
2023

Jessica Dalrymple is a painter based in Brooklyn, New York. She studied fine art at Hamilton College in Clinton and trained as a painter at the Art Students League of New York; she holds a certificate in horticulture from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Dalrymple collaborates with organizations to create art events that raise awareness about local landscapes and environmental issues including co-creating ArtLab Gowanus, a pop-up structure hosting landscape related art workshops taught by local artists and made possible by the Gowanus Public Art Grant, applied for in collaboration with The Gowanus Canal Conservancy (2015). In 2014 she created a "Plein Air on The Canal" event hosting organizations such as local chapters of The Urban Sketchers and Oil Painters of America on the banks of the canal to capture the evolving landscape. Other events include a Spring Botanical Draw for the Gowanus Dredgers focusing on local vegetation, multiple Botanical Drawing events for The Old Stone House Brooklyn featuring their gardens, and a Botanical "Drink N Draw" event to raise funds for The Human Impact Institute. She leads monthly "Mindful Nature Journaling Hikes" through New York City Parks. Dalrymple is a licensed city tree pruner through Trees New York, and actively volunteers with local environmental groups. Learn more about Jessica Dalrymple [here](#).



Crystal Driedger
Trumpet Vine, Campsis Radicans
2024

CRYSTAL DRIEDGER

Crystal Driedger is a botanical and scientific illustrator based in Alberta, Canada. She works in painting, drawing, and carving, and has been a botanical illustrator for over 20 years, specializing primarily in colored pencil and oil paints. Driedger draws inspiration from the natural world and aims to inspire viewers to engage and connect with the world around them. Her artwork features plants and animals that range in size and species that can be found in wild and urban environments. She graduated from the design program at MacEwan University, where she now teaches illustration. Learn more about Crystal Driedger [here](#).



Melissa DeSa

It's complicated; the tomato hornworm and sphinx moth life cycles
2022

MELISSA DESA

Melissa DeSa is a visual artist working primarily in drawing and printmaking and is based in Gainesville, Florida. After receiving a master's degree from the University of Florida, DeSa worked as a biologist studying wildlife and ecosystems. More recently she has worked in the non-profit sector, focusing on community food systems; she is currently the Plant Program Director of WorkingFood, whose mission is "To cultivate and sustain a resilient local food community in North Central Florida through collaboration, economic opportunity, education, and seed stewardship." DeSa's artwork often features the insects, birds, vegetables, and other ecosystems that she is passionate about supporting. In the past few years, DeSa has been working with plants to create natural dyes and pigments to paint with. Learn more about [WorkingFood here](#) or visit Melissa DeSa's website [here](#).

JEAN EMMONS

Jean Emmons is a botanical illustrator based in Washington. She originally trained as an abstract painter in New York before working as an illustrator for horticultural books and magazines. Currently, Emmons is a botanical illustrator; her preferred medium is watercolor on vellum. She uses a process known as dry brushing that requires many layers of thinly applied paint to create the rich colors seen in her work. Her artwork has won many awards including two Gold Medals and a “Best Painting in Show” from the Royal Horticultural Society, London. She has exhibited at the Smithsonian; the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew; the Royal Horticultural Society Lindley Library; the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation; the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; the New York Botanical Garden; Wave Hill; the United States Botanic Garden; and the Horticultural Society of New York. Recent awards include the Jurors’ Award at the 20th Botanical Art Exhibition at Filoli and “Best in Show” at the American Society of Botanical Artists 21st International Exhibition, Wave Hill. Her work is included in numerous collections including the Shirley Sherwood Collection, Kew; the Royal Horticultural Society’s Lindley Library; the Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation; and the Alisa and Isaac M. Sutton Collection. When not painting, Emmons spends her days gardening and walking the trails of Vashon Island, Washington, and volunteers at Vashon Island Pet Protectors. Learn more about Jean Emmons [here](#).

Jean Emmons
An Iris From the Cutting Gardens
2023



AKIKO ENOKIDO

Akiko Enokido is a Japanese artist who has shown their work in the United States and internationally including the Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew, London. Her work is in several private collections. She won the Gold Medal at the Royal Horticultural Society of London Botanical Art Show in 2016 for her painting of Heritage Camellia Japonica in watercolor on vellum. More of her work can be viewed on [Instagram](#).



Akiko Enokido
Poncirus Trifoliata (hardy orange)
2019

MADGE EVERS

Madge Evers uses foraged plants and fungi to explore cross-species collaboration. Her work has been exhibited at the Danforth Art Museum and the Brattleboro Museum, as well as throughout the east coast and has been acquired by private and institutional collectors. Evers was a 2019 Photo Lucida Critical Mass finalist and a 2021 Mass Cultural Council photography finalist. Images from The New Herbarium series were published in *Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture*. Artist residencies in Ireland, the Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Mount Auburn Cemetery, Kinney Renaissance Center at UMass, on Cape Cod and in Maine have allowed Madge Evers to interact with landscapes and their histories. After teaching for 25 years in Rhode Island and Massachusetts public schools, she now works as a full-time artist in Western Massachusetts. Learn more about Madge Evers [here](#).



Hillary Waters Fayle
Portrait of a Place: Oak Spring
2023

HILLARY WATERS FAYLE

Hillary Waters Fayle is a textile artist based in Richmond, Virginia. She holds a BFA from Buffalo State College and an MFA in Craft/Material Studies from Virginia Commonwealth University where she is now an assistant professor and directs the fiber program. Her work is primarily focused on textile traditions in collaboration with botanical material. She is interested in how plants and cloth — her two primary mediums — hold deep, specific, and shared connections to place, time, people, and memory. On her website, Hillary Waters Fayle quotes Kahlil Gibran, “Work is love made visible,” as this approach to work is central to her artistic practice. Learn more about Hillary Waters Fayle [here](#) or on [Instagram](#).

FIDENCIO FIFIELD-PEREZ

Artist and educator Fidencio Fifield-Perez was born in Oaxaca, Mexico and raised in the U.S. after his family migrated; he is based in Davis, California. His current work examines borders, edges, and the people who must traverse them. His primary mediums include printmaking, collage, and painting; the materiality of paper ephemera is a common theme throughout his work. Fifield-Perez holds a BFA from the Memphis College of Art and an MA and an MFA from the University of Iowa; he is currently Assistant Professor of Painting at University of California-Davis. Learn more about Perez [here](#), and read an interview with him [on Oak Spring’s blog](#).

KATE KLINGBEIL

Kate Klingbeil is an artist based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin who works in painting, sculpture, installation, and video. Her work explores the ways in which human beings and the natural world are connected. Her work includes anthropomorphic plants and vegetation; some subjects of interest have included vegetable root systems, oceans, and mycelium. Klingbeil holds a BFA from California College of the Arts and is represented by Steve Turner Gallery in Los Angeles. Learn more about Kate Klingbeil's work [here](#).

ASUKA HISHIKI

Asuka Hishiki is a botanical artist based outside of Kyoto, Japan. Hishiki attended art school in Japan. She spent a decade living and working as an artist and studio assistant in New York before returning to Japan. Her artwork is inspired by plants, insects, and animals. The creatures she sees around her in her day-to-day life growing in her backyard and on the street where she lives are often the subject of her artwork. Hishiki's work has been shown nationally and internationally; she was most recently awarded a bronze medal for her artwork in the American Society of Botanical Artists Triennial, "Curious Allies: Mutualism in Fungi, Parasite and Carnivores" at the New York Botanical Garden. To see more of Asuka Hishiki's work, visit [here](#).

Kate Klingbeil
Dirt Pony
2022



ELLIE IRONS

Ellie Irons is an interdisciplinary artist and educator based in New York. She holds a PhD in Arts Practice from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute focusing on public fieldwork, urban ecology, and socially engaged art. Iron's work sits at the intersection of socially engaged art and urban ecology. As an Eliza Moore Fellow at Oak Spring, she extended work on her Feral and Invasive Pigments project, which involved making watercolor paint from the leaves, petals, and berries of spontaneous plants growing in urban areas or places otherwise impacted by human activity. To learn more about Ellie Irons, visit [here](#).

MIEKO ISHIKAWA

Mieko Ishikawa is a botanical artist based outside of Tokyo, Japan. She primarily paints Japanese cherry blossoms and plants grown in the Borneo rainforests. Her work is intended to draw attention to the beauty of our biodiverse world. Learn more about Mieko Ishikawa [here](#).

Mieko Ishikawa
Malus 'Mary Potter' (Mary Potter crabapple)
2019

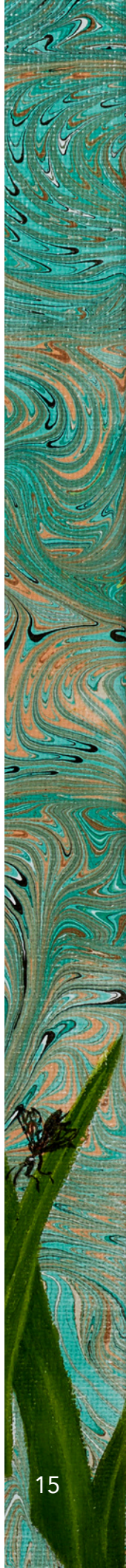


DINORÁ JUSTICE

Currently living in Newton, Massachusetts, artist Dinorá Justice was born in Brazil. Her work explores include the feminine, nature, and environmental destruction. “I am a beneficiary of (Bunny Mellon’s) vision, and where my vision and hers come together is perhaps my belief that art can carry ideas and emotions far and wide, and inspire people,” said Dinorá in a statement she wrote at the end of her residency at Oak Spring. One of her largest bodies of work, Portraits, includes paintings of silhouettes of women influenced by nineteenth century “Odalisque” portraits reclining in natural settings, exploring the exploitative ways that we relate to nature as a patriarchal society. Other works include At the Border - decorative benches to cultural baggage, journeys, and the toll travel takes on immigrants and refugees, and Totems which represents the desperation and feelings of futility that accompany attempts to combat climate change. Read more about Dinorá Justice [here](#) and at the Oak Spring blog post [here](#).

CALDER KAMIN

Calder Kamin is an educator, advocate, and creative re-use artist and sculptor who takes inspiration from nature — in particular birds — as they collect pieces of trash and weave it into their nests. She is deeply connected to the impact that materials have on our environment and strives to make work that redefines what “trash” is and how it can be repurposed. Nature’s endless ability to reuse and adapt motivates her to eliminate waste and reimagine it as art. Learn more about Calder Kamin [here](#).



SUZY KOPF

Suzy Kopf is a multidisciplinary artist who scrutinizes the paper ephemera of mid-century consumer culture to probe the enduring myths of the American Dream. She is based in San Francisco, California. Through water media paintings, collages, and site-specific installations, Kopf excavates archival materials and inherited nostalgia for planned utopias erected and cast aside. Vibrant and pastel colors unify her work across media and evoke the built landscape of the eroding Silicon Valley where she grew up. Conscious of how much by-product can result from art production, Kopf strives to have a “no waste” practice, recycling materials back into her work and making her own paint. She has been the recipient of numerous residency fellowships including most recently at Kala, The Studios at Mass MoCA, Playa, and the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts. Projects related to her research-based practice have been funded by the Hagley Museum, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) and the Design History Society. Learn more about Suzy Kopf [here](#).

AIMEE LEE

Currently based in Cleveland, Ohio, Aimee Lee is an artist and writer who works in sculpture, installation, and fiber arts. She is a strong advocate for Korean papermaking techniques. Her second Fulbright award as a senior scholar focused on further research of Korean papermaking tools while continuing her training with various national and provincial Intangible Cultural Property Holders. Lee trains the next generation of papermakers in the Korean tradition from the Korean diaspora and beyond in her private hanji studio east of Cleveland and in workshops around the world. She is the author of *Hanji Unfurled: One Journey into Korean Papermaking* and the founder of the first hanji studio in North America. Read more about Aimee Lee [here](#).

OLIVIA CLAIRE MENDOZA

Olivia Claire Mendoza is an illustrator and designer based in Michigan. She specializes in realism and natural subject matter and is “interested in the intricacy and beauty in the details of natural things.” Mendoza holds a BFA in Medical Illustration from Kendall College of Art and design. Learn more about Olivia Claire Mendoza art [here](#).

Olivia Claire Mendoza
Early April in the Glass House
2021

ELIZA LLOYD MOORE

Eliza Lloyd Moore was the only daughter of Stacy Lloyd Jr., and Rachel “Bunny” Lambert Mellon. Eliza was a multimedia artist who worked primarily in painting and drawing, collage, and photography. Light and shadows were instrumental subjects in her work; she often depicted what she described as “angels” that were the inexplicable appearances of light she saw day-to-day. In 2000, Moore was hit by a bus in New York City which left her quadriplegic. She lived in this state at the Oak Spring estate until her passing in 2008. Prior to her death, Moore had plans to begin RxART with her close friend Diane Brown. Today Diane Brown and RxART are committed to bringing the artwork of contemporary artists to children’s hospitals to improve the lives and experiences of the young patients. The Oak Spring Garden Foundation’s Eliza Moore Fellowship for Artistic Excellence is named after Eliza Lloyd Moore and is awarded annually to an emerging artist whose work shows great promise. Learn more about RxART [here](#).



FRANCISCO VAZQUEZ MURILLO

Francisco Vazquez Murillo is a visual artist living in Rosario, Argentina. He works through drawing, installation, and sculpture to reestablish a connection with the natural world seeking to encourage human consciousness for the acts of destruction committed against it. His most recent work is site specific and consists of plants and the act of gardening or planting. He has exhibited internationally throughout Argentina, Mexico, and the Netherlands as well as at Oak Spring Garden Foundation with his site-specific installation *Deadline*. Learn more about Francisco Vazquez Murillo [here](#).



Francisco Vazquez Murillo
Deadline
2023

IRINA NEACȘU

Irina Neacșu is a designer and a botanical artist, a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists and a founder of the Romanian Society of Botanical Artists. Her projects cover a wide range of creative fields from painting and graphics to art teaching, applied arts, and interior design. Currently, she is based in New Haven, Connecticut, and is completing a Fulbright Scholarship at Yale University in the Department of Art History. Her research focuses on the disparities and commonalities between artistic practice, botanical illustration, and landscape paintings. Learn more about Irina Neacșu [here](#).

HENRY OBENG

Henry Obeng is a Ghanaian-born artist, papermaker, and photographer based in Madison, Wisconsin. While at Oak Spring, Obeng experimented with making paper from thistle seed. To learn more about Henry Obeng, read [this interview](#) or visit [Instagram](#).



Henry Obeng
Four studies of handmade thistle paper with colored impressions of a thistle on each
2022

JOHN PASTORIZA-PIÑOL

Based in Melbourne, Australia, John Pastoriza-Piñol considers himself a contemporary visual artist whose practice sits within the genre of botanical art yet rebels against its continued traditional representations and tropes. He has exhibited internationally in solo and group exhibitions for the last 22 years, in private and public galleries exploring these tensions along with the complex and dynamic interrelationships of man and nature/science and art. This has evolved into a commitment to painting as both a method and form of deeper inspection which continues to draw upon the power of close observation. Use of rich luminous hues in gorgeously exotic and rare botanical specimens epitomize his work, however these are more than representational flower paintings. Closer inspection unearths a certain ambiguity of form and intent towards a dark and complex narrative which is born of the association between eye and hand, and sense and thought. Learn more about John Pastoriza-Piñol [here](#).



KANDIS VERMEER PHILLIPS

Kandis Vermeer Phillips is a visual artist based in Bethesda, Maryland working in watercolor painting, drawing, and silverpoint. She spent much of her professional career creating entomological illustrations of moths. Her work is deeply inspired by the natural world. Vermeer Phillips was one of Oak Spring's first artist-in-residence; she has now visited Oak Spring five times. Her continued engagement with the landscape and its ecosystems has led to a number of paintings, drawings, and silverpoint illustrations featuring Oak Spring's grassland birds including bobolinks and meadowlarks, as well as kestrels, lichens, and other species. Learn more about Kandis Vermeer Phillips [here](#).

MARIA ALICE DE REZENDE

Maria Alice de Rezende is currently based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where she works as an art teacher as well as an illustrator on projects with researchers at the Rio de Janeiro Botanical Garden. Her main creative practice is her personal work of illustration of native species of Brazilian flora. Her awards include receiving the Margaret Mee Foundation Award at the Royal Botanic Gardens in 2004. She is currently working on an illustration project on the biodiversity of the South Atlantic Islands.



LORENA CRUZ SANTIAGO

Lorena Cruz Santiago is an artist working across photography, video, and installation informed and inspired by her family's indigenous origins in Oaxaca, Mexico. Her work covers topics of migration, assimilation, labor, and — more recently — collaborative image-making with her parents as a form of indigenous autonomy. Cruz Santiago holds a BFA in Photography from Sonoma State University and an MFA in Photography from the Cranbrook Academy of Art. She is currently based in Detroit, Michigan, and shows her work nationally and internationally. Learn more about Lorena Cruz Santiago [here](#).

JENNIFER KATHLEEN SCHEUER

Jennifer Kathleen Scheuer is an artist and collaborative printer whose work focuses on lithography and the history of printmaking. She currently holds a position as a Visiting Assistant Professor at Purdue University. Her artistic research is based on plants, medicine, the body, and healing throughout history. "I have been working with archives and historical books in my artistic research and greatly value the time to spend with historical and contemporary primary documents," Scheuer said. "Dedicated time at [Oak Spring] was an opportunity to create a new series of work...and for internal growth in understanding of the relationship between humans and plants." She spent much of her two-week residency in the Oak Spring Garden Library, researching both herbals and the Doctrine of Signatures (a concept from the early 16th century which states that plants resembling certain body parts can be used to treat ailments in those body parts). Scheuer's residency provided her with the time to develop new imagery and an artist book exploring scholarship, gardening, art, and the earth. Learn more about Jennifer Scheuer [here](#).



ELAINE SEARLE

Elaine Searle is a botanical artist and educator based in Norfolk, England. She is internationally recognized for her watercolor paintings of plants, fruit, and vegetables. In her work, Searle enjoys the pursuit of representing light on form, textural contrasts, and illusions of depth. She is quoted as saying her intent in botanical illustration is “not documentation but portraiture.” Learn more about Elaine Searle and the courses she teaches [here](#).

KEIKO NIBU TARVER

Keiko Nibu Tarver is a Japanese artist who lived in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania before moving to Fukuoka, Japan. Her artistic interests include plants native to the United States and Japan, especially plants of the *Aesculus* genus. She is a member and board director of both the American Society of Botanical Artists and the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators. Her awards include receiving Best Student Painting at the Friends Hospital Grounds: A Living Legacy exhibition in 2012. Tarvar’s work has been exhibited throughout the U.S.

Keiko Nibu Tarver
Espalier Crab Apple at the Biocultural Conservation Farm Office with Buddy Foster, the Cat
2022





AUTUMN VON PLINSKY

Autumn Von Plinsky is a graphic designer, muralist, and illustrator currently based in Brooklyn, New York. Having grown up surrounded by the natural world in Augusta, Georgia, most of her illustrations are inspired by nature, focusing on “the little details that are sometimes overlooked.” As a professional illustrator, Von Plinsky works in the biotech and pharmaceutical industry as an art director, which entails creating logos, websites, infographics, and leading other client rebranding initiatives. Outside of this role, Von Plinsky continues her creative practice; her preferred medium is watercolor. Learn more about Autumn Von Plinsky [here](#).



Autumn Von Plinsky
*Garden View of Oak Spring Depicting the Basket House,
Watering Trough,
Old School House, and Garden Wall*
2018

Autumn Von Plinsky
*Aerial View of the Oak Spring Property, Showing Boundaries,
Buildings, and Natural Features;
Water Features, Wooded Areas, Fields, and Gardens*
2018

CAROL WOODIN

Carol Woodin took a circuitous route to botanical art. A one-time draftsman, surveyor's cartographer, and a stint as a tractor-trailer driver were all steps along the trail that contributed to her work in the field and studio. A freelancer for over 30 years, Woodin's main obsession has always been orchids, but rare wildflowers, heirloom fruits, and other interesting plants are fair game. Living in the Hudson Valley provides perfect opportunities for exploring plant diversity. Her artwork has been exhibited and collected around the world. Recent venues include the Jonathan Cooper Gallery, London; the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC; Shirley Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art at Kew, London; UBS Galleries and Newhouse Galleries in New York; the Museum de Zwarte Tulp, Lisse, the Netherlands; and the Marciana Library, Venice, Italy. Her work is in the collections of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Smithsonian Institution, the Hunt Institute, and numerous private and corporate collections throughout the Americas and Europe. She recently was invited to contribute to the Grootbos Florilegium, a project to document and raise awareness of the Cape Floral Kingdom in South Africa. A book has been published documenting the project. Woodin is Exhibitions Director of the American Society of Botanical Artists, curating and coordinating exhibitions throughout the U.S. She teaches workshops around the country and internationally in person and online devoted to techniques of watercolor painting on vellum. To learn more about Carol Woodin, visit [her website](#).



ELIZABETH WEBB

Elizabeth Webb is an artist and filmmaker originally from Charlottesville, Virginia and now based in Atlanta, Georgia. Her work is invested in issues surrounding race and identity, often using the lens of her own family history of migration and racial passing to explore larger systemic constructs. Webb holds a dual MFA in Film/Video and Photography/Media from the California Institute of the Arts and is an alumna of the Whitney Independent Study Program in Studio Art, the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, and the Core Program at the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. Learn more about Elizabeth Webb [here](#) or on [Instagram](#).

ARZU YAYINTAŞ

Arzu Yayintaş is an artist and curator living in Istanbul, Turkey. Her artwork ranges from installation, photography, video, and workshops that focus on gender inequality, social transformations, and environmental destruction.

Elizabeth Webb
Stereo Pair (Double Acorn)
2022





FÁTIMA ZAGONEL

Fátima Zagonel is a Brazilian artist who worked as a graphic designer for about 20 years before becoming a botanical illustrator. Her current work primarily consists of scientific illustrations of native Brazilian plants, but without forgetting commercial artwork. In 1999, she won the Margaret Mee Foundation Fellowship and was instructed by Christabel King at the Royal Botanic Gardens for six months. Zagonel is the Founder Associate of the Botanical Illustration Center of Paraná – CIBP and is a botanical illustration teacher for beginners. Learn more about Fátima Zagonel [here](#).

Fátima Zagonel
Preparatory drawing of flower with leaves
2022



Many thanks to Danielle Eady, Program Director at Oak Spring Garden Foundation, for compiling the initial biographies for each artist. All edits to the text were made at the Turchin Center in keeping with Appalachian State University's use of the Associated Press Stylebook.

EXHIBITION GOALS

When this exhibition was conceived, Hurricane Helene had not devastated Western North Carolina. The reading room in the Turchin Center's most intimate Gallery is designed to provide a place of respite, both metaphorically and literally, from the storm.

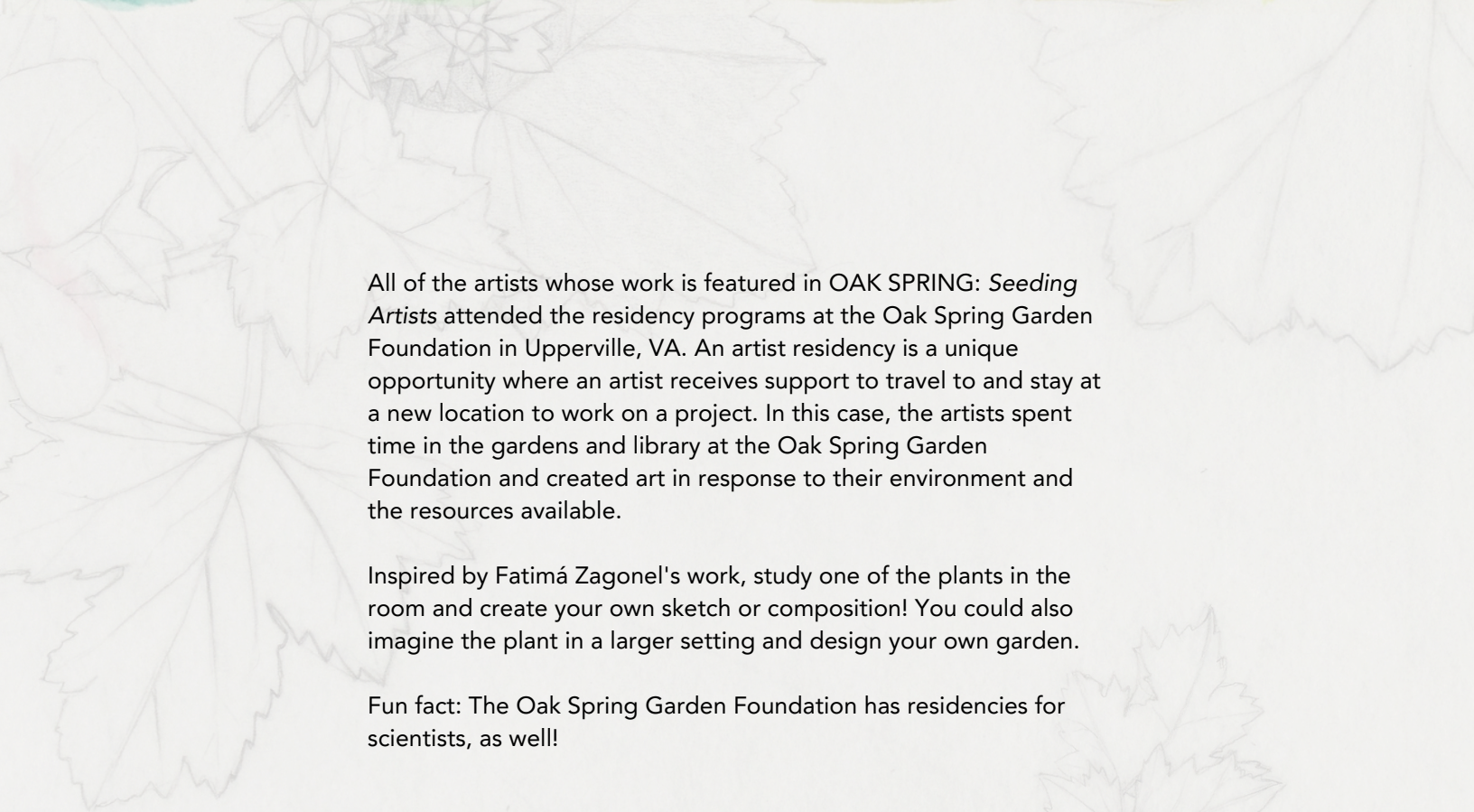


- Visitors are encouraged to appreciate how artists honor the land through their creative pursuits. Spend time looking at the books about the land and its riches across the Blue Ridge, remembering what we have lost, what we still have, and dream about what we can create.
- Exhibitions of art and artifact, of animate and inanimate objects, focus on what is possible now while projecting a sustainable future. Oak Spring: *Seeding Artists* encourages visitors to take action—to make a difference both personally and in community, through artmaking and gardening.
- Introduce visitors to the residency artists and opportunities at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation (OSGF) in Upperville, VA. Like Appalachian State University, OSGF is nestled into the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains.
- Encourage visitors to engage with the works of art - many about plants and their impact on our lives - that are on display in the galleries and to spend time in the small community library looking at the books, before going back to your own wild landscapes and cultivated gardens here in the high country to create your own artwork and gardens.





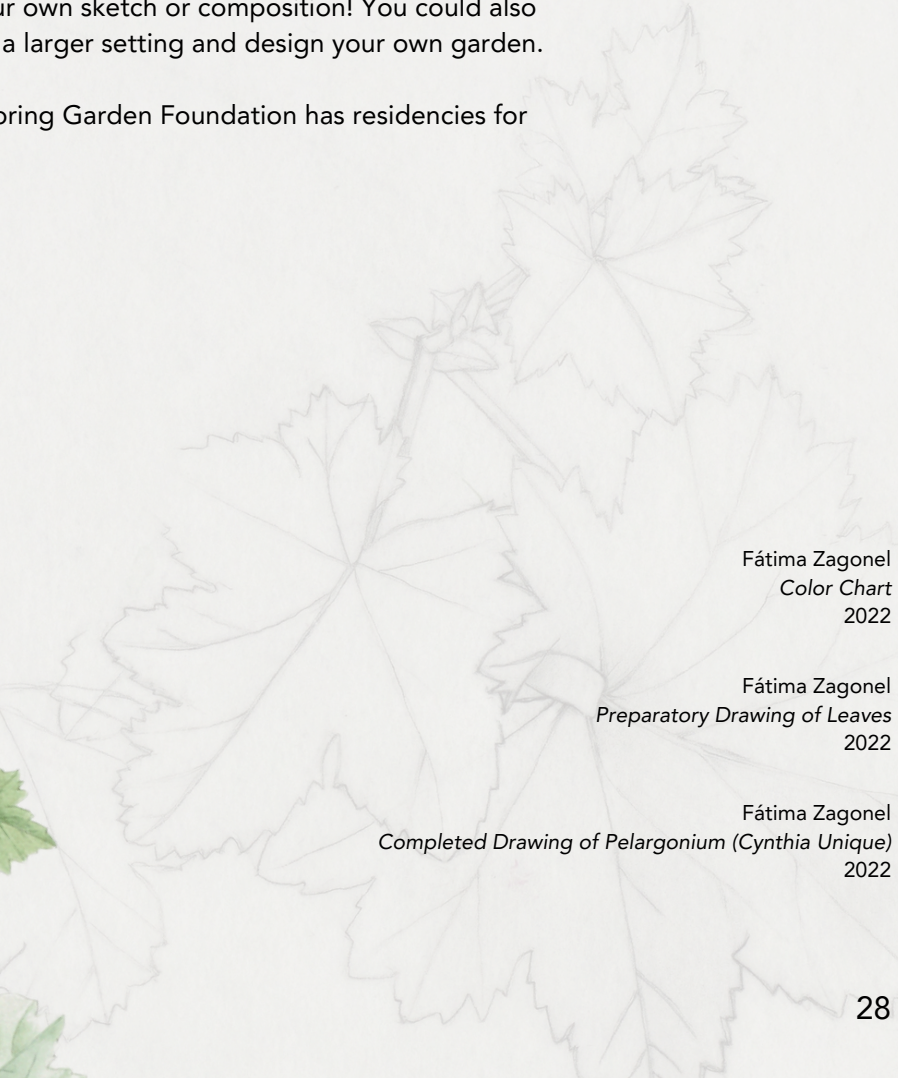
INVITATION TO CREATE



All of the artists whose work is featured in OAK SPRING: *Seeding Artists* attended the residency programs at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation in Upperville, VA. An artist residency is a unique opportunity where an artist receives support to travel to and stay at a new location to work on a project. In this case, the artists spent time in the gardens and library at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation and created art in response to their environment and the resources available.

Inspired by Fatimá Zagonel's work, study one of the plants in the room and create your own sketch or composition! You could also imagine the plant in a larger setting and design your own garden.

Fun fact: The Oak Spring Garden Foundation has residencies for scientists, as well!



Fátima Zagonel
Color Chart
2022

Fátima Zagonel
Preparatory Drawing of Leaves
2022

Fátima Zagonel
Completed Drawing of Pelargonium (Cynthia Unique)
2022

ARTTALK

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025

DANIELLE EADY

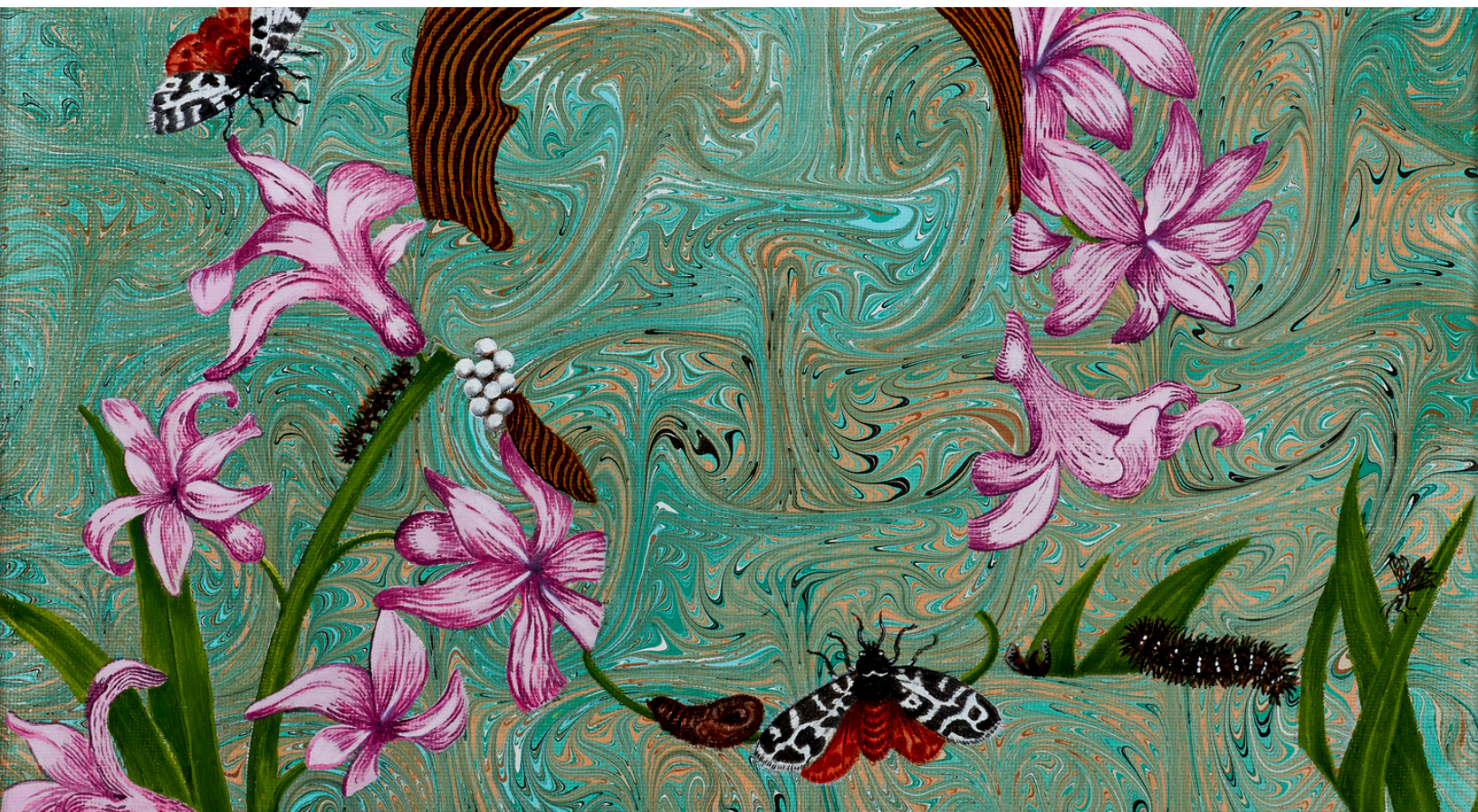
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

OAK SPRING GARDEN FOUNDATION

Dinorá Justice

Portait 73, an imaginary portrait of Maria Sibylla Merian

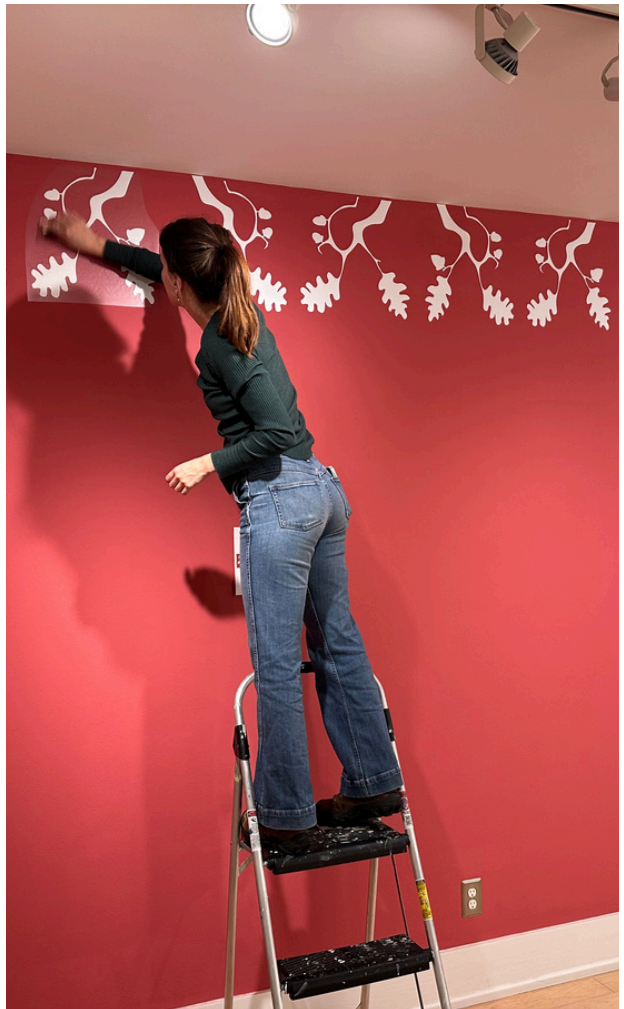
2023



Danielle Eady is the Program Director at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation. An Austin, TX native, she began working at OSGF in August 2019. Danielle received her BFA in Studio Art from the University of Texas at Austin, after which she obtained a Masters in Arts Administration and Policy, and a Masters in Modern and Contemporary Art History from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Her professional experiences are in curatorial and educational departments; she is passionate about supporting the places that give creative people the time and space to work and experiment. At OSGF, Danielle facilitates and administers all things related to the foundation's artist programs, residencies, and fellowships.

BEHIND THE SCENES





SELECTED WORKS IN THE EXHIBIT





Melissa DeSa
It's complicated; the tomato hornworm and sphinx moth life cycles
2022



Henry Obeng
Four studies of handmade thistle paper with colored impressions of a thistle on each
2022



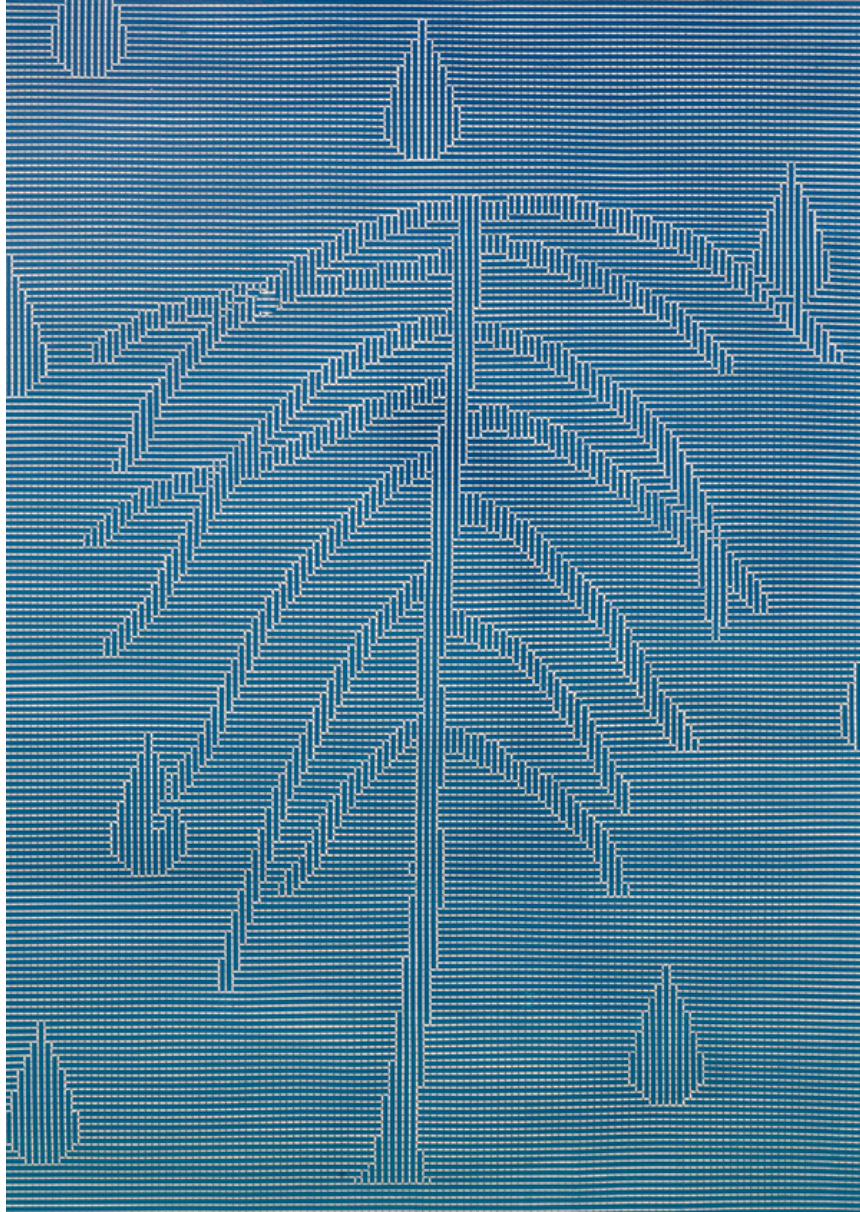
Dinorá Justice
Portrait 73, an imaginary portrait of Maria Sibylla Merian
2023



Kate Klingbeil
Dirt Pony
2022



Akiko Enokido
Malus Pumila (York Imperial Apple)
2022

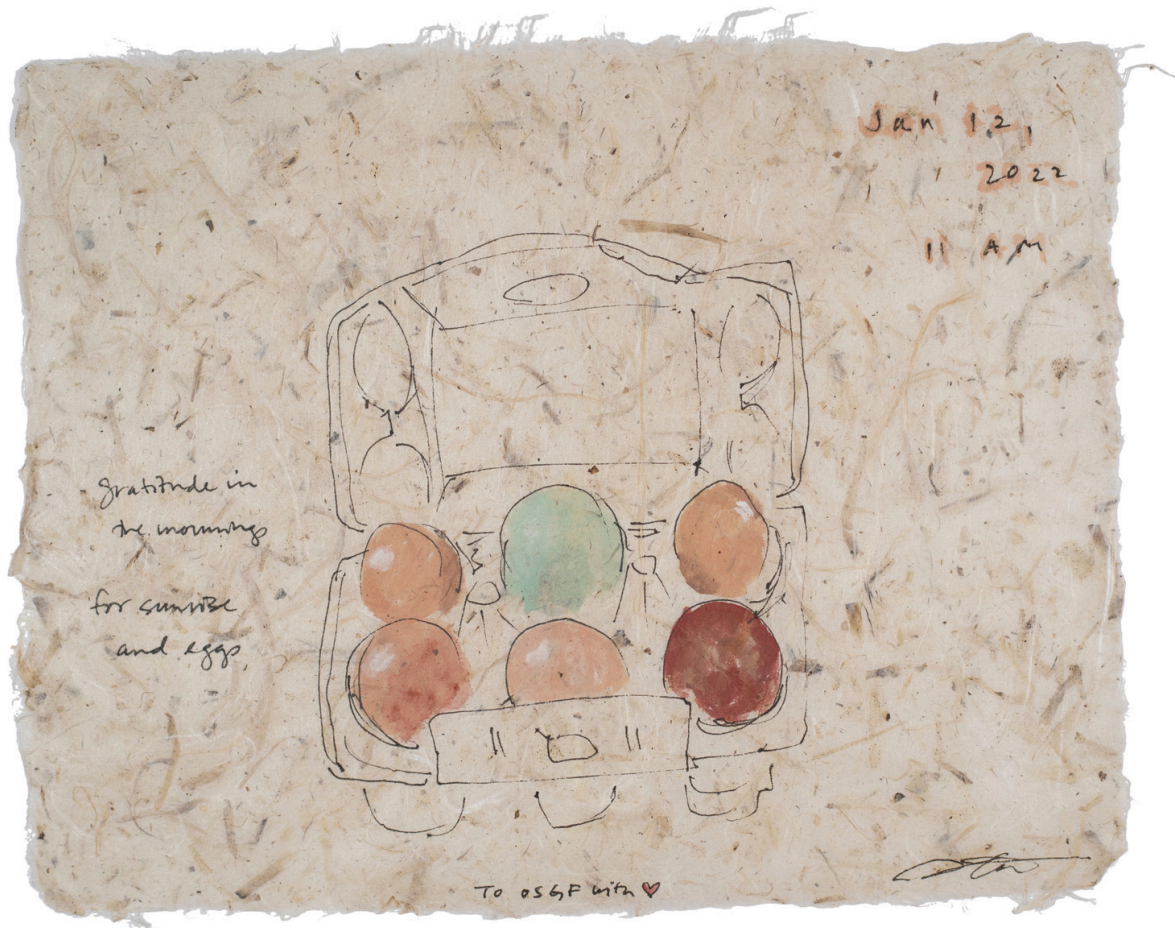


Fidencio Fifield-Perez
Clear Cut
2021

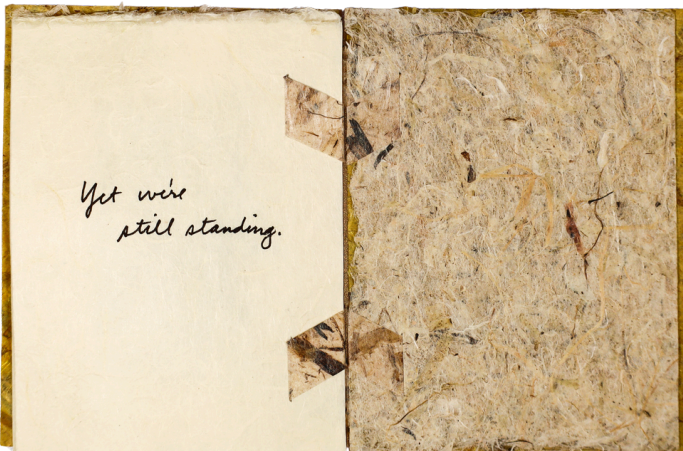
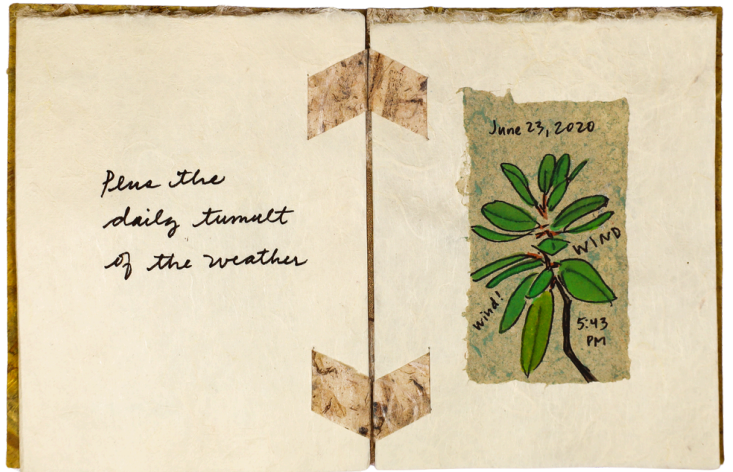


Kandis Vermeer Phillips
Eighteen Days - A Visual Journal during the Oak Spring Foundation Alumni Residency
2023





Aimee Lee
Untitled (Sheet of handmade paper from milkweed)
2022



Aimee Lee
The Drama of a Few Square Feet
2020

Madison Colvin
Orchard I
2023



Madison Colvin
Orchard II
2023

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

OAK SPRING GARDEN FOUNDATION

OSGF RESIDENCY ALUMNI

OSGF RESIDENCIES

OSGF INSTAGRAM

OSGF FACEBOOK

OSGF LIBRARY

OSGF HISTORY



VMFA MELLON COLLECTION

VIRGINIA LIVING | THE MELLON LEGACY

NY TIMES | BUNNY MELLON BIOGRAPHY REVIEW

BUNNY MELLON & THE WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN

THE MARTHA BLOG | VISITING THE FORMER MELLON ESTATE



THANK

YOU

FROM THE TURCHIN CENTER FOR THE VISUAL ARTS

The Turchin Center for the Visual Arts at Appalachian State University engages visitors from the university, community, nation and beyond in creating unique experiences through dynamic and accessible exhibition, education, outreach and collection programs. These programs inspire and support a lifelong engagement with the visual arts and create opportunities for participants to learn more about themselves and the world around them.

Appalachian
STATE UNIVERSITY