



Nature Pops! At Wave Hill



Wave Hill curatorial fellow Tracy Fenix

By PAUL LASTER, AUG. 2016

Presenting a group show of contemporary artists dealing with issues of Pop Art in their work, [Nature Pops!](#) offers a lively look at flora and fauna filtered through the lens of popular culture and consumerism. The eleven artists on view — Polly Apfelbaum, Roberley Bell, Justin Berry, JoAnne Carson, Kira Nam Greene, Laurie Hogin, Vandana Jain, Portia Munson, Emilio Perez, Amy Pryor and Shinique Smith — use painting, sculpture, collage, printmaking, video and installation art to explore themes of the environment in enticing ways.

Highlights of the show, curated by Gabriel de Guzman, include Portia Munson's installation *Stream*, which features a substantial accumulation of found, blue, plastic objects flowing through two adjacent rooms; Kira Nam Greene's colorful still life paintings of junk food on flower-patterned backgrounds; Emilio Perez's *Space Face* series of screen prints of a photograph taken by the Hubble Space Telescope that are dynamically overlaid with the artist's hand-cut stencil drawings of abstracted heads; and Justin Berry's photographs of landscapes featuring stitched together imagery of digitally simulated environments from video war games.

Other standout works are a big calligraphic painting created with bleach on denim by Shinique Smith and an equally large woodblock print of animated, abstract flowers by Polly Apfelbaum, while two Project Space installations — Amie Cunat's bold, room-filling mural and hanging, gridded sculptures and Joiri Minaya's suspended cut-outs of body parts and tropical prints culled from a Google search for the tag "Dominican women" — nicely complement the spirited show.

Scroll through the images below to see more artists and curators at the opening and installation views of the show. **WM**



Installation view of Nature Pops! With work by JoAnne Carson, Amy Pryor, Shinique Smith and Portia Munson



JoAnne Carson with her painting