

A lush garden scene featuring large, deeply lobed green leaves in the background and a cluster of red and pink flowers in the foreground. The text "CULTIVATE YOUR OWN GARDEN" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

CULTIVATE YOUR OWN GARDEN

Cecile Chong
Elisabeth Condon
Daniel Dallmann
Carlo D'Anselmi
Lois Dodd
Ashley Garrett
Xico Greenwald
Eric Holzman
Wolf Kahn
Judith Linhares
Carol March
Ruth Miller

CULTIVATE YOUR OWN GARDEN

Curated by
Patricia Spergel & Shazzi Thomas

February 27 - March 24, 2018

THE PAINTING CENTER

547 West 27th Street, Suite 500, New York, NY 10001
Tues-Sat, 11-6 pm, 212-343-1060, www.thepaintingcenter.org

Cultivate Your Own Garden

Shortly after the 2016 presidential election, a close friend and I were lamenting the outcome and feeling frustrated by the impending change in the political climate. My friend sighed and said, “well, it’s time to make like Candide and cultivate your own garden.” I was struck by this observation about going inward to ultimately better the world around us; thus the idea for this show was hatched. At the end of Voltaire’s novel *Candide* (1759), the main character purchases a farm and dedicates himself to working and cultivating a garden. In doing so, Candide learns to take care of his own needs before taking care of others; and connects to the world through a physical interaction with the earth rather than through political philosophizing.

This idea of connecting to nature despite the cacophony of the world around us seems apt at this moment in history. Shazzi Thomas and I selected artists for this exhibition who reference garden and landscape in their work in a variety of ways – traditional observational painting, works with subtle satirical and political commentary and paintings that lean towards abstraction. What all these paintings have in common is a love for nature and paint and a clear, focused approach to transmitting that passion.

Lois Dodd, Carol March and Ruth Miller all take a classical approach to painting nature. Dodd is a master of gentle, meditative observation – even a tiny fly on a pink petal does not go unnoticed. While March uses garden motifs in her paintings of houseplants and flowers in vases, the true subject is light and longing. Miller’s work is deceptive in its straightforwardness, but radiant in its combination of deeply hued colors and strong lines. Wolf Kahn and Carlo D’Anselmi use highly keyed palettes and dense, physical brushwork

to create suggestions of trees, trellises and sunshine. Eric Holzman’s paintings are mystical gateways into another world filled with growth and lush vegetation. Both Daniel Dallmann and Xico Greenwald bring the garden, with its optimistic promise of spring, into the interior – deftly and subtly mixing the genres of still life and landscape painting.

Both Ashley Garrett and Judith Linhares inject sly humor and ironic narrative into their paintings. A landscape by Garrett can mimic looking into a radiant kaleidoscope, and a painting of a prize-winning ribbon can morph into a flower on a stem. Linhares flirts with kitsch in her masterful paintings of flowers and cavorting (often naked) figures in the landscape. But her nuanced color, particularly the vibrant and velvety blues, and brilliant brushwork steer the work in a different direction. Cecile Chong’s installation of encaustic and mixed media, including actual plants and leaves collected in NYC and New Orleans, is titled “Chicken Little” and makes reference to the dangers of fearmongering. Elisabeth Condon’s work draws inspiration from sources as disparate as ancient textiles, fabric and wallpaper patterns and classical Chinese landscape paintings, but each piece shouts out the harmony and beauty of nature.

There is a weariness and fatigue that sets in towards the end of winter. It is our hope that this exhibition will give the viewer a momentary respite from the relentless onslaught of the exterior world – both its politics and its harsh weather – and that carefully looking at these paintings will serve as a moment to pause, renew and reflect inward.

Patricia Spergel, 2018

Cecile Chong

Chicken Little, 2017

Encaustic and mixed media

(flowers and plants from Wave Hill and Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans)

16 x 10 ft



Elisabeth Condon

All the Living Hybrids, 2016

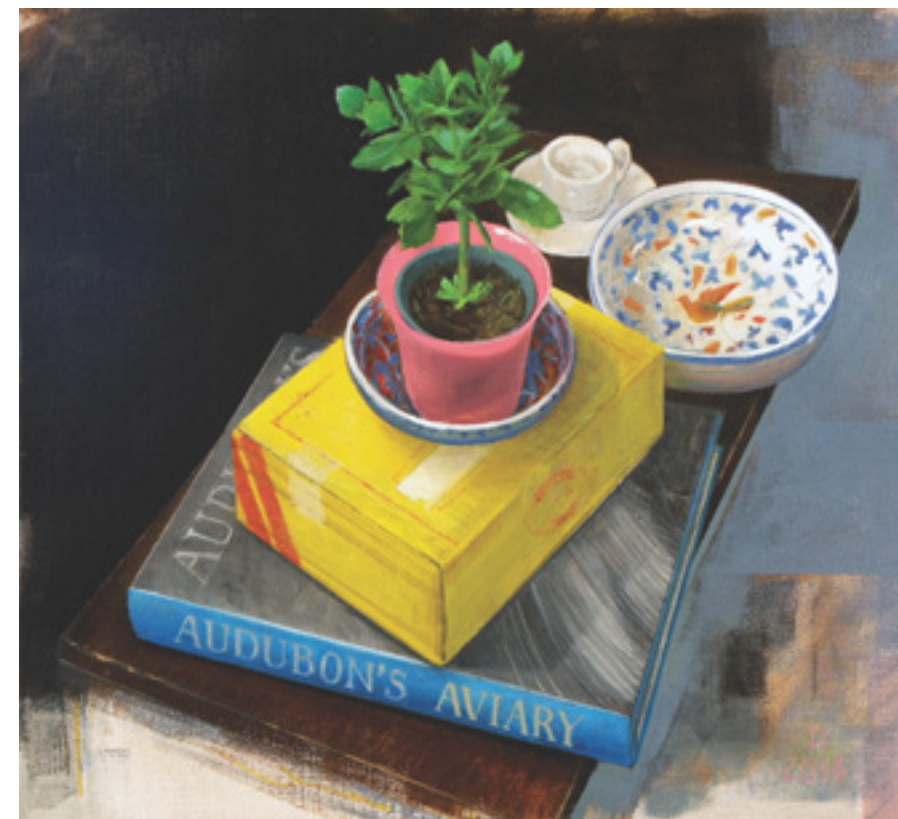
Acrylic, ink, glitter on linen

39 x 39 inches

Courtesy of Lesley Heller Gallery, New York



Daniel Dallmann
Aviary, 2014
Oil on linen
12 x 13 inches



Carlo D'Anselmi
Achilles' Heel, 2015
Oil on canvas
11 x 14 inches



Lois Dodd

Pink Digitalis, 2014

Oil on masonite

20 x 12.125 inches

©Lois Dodd, Courtesy Alexandre Gallery, New York



Ashley Garrett
No Exit, 2015
Oil on canvas
48 x 49 inches



Xico Greenwald
Bowl, Laurel, 2016-2017
Oil on linen
58 x 62 inches

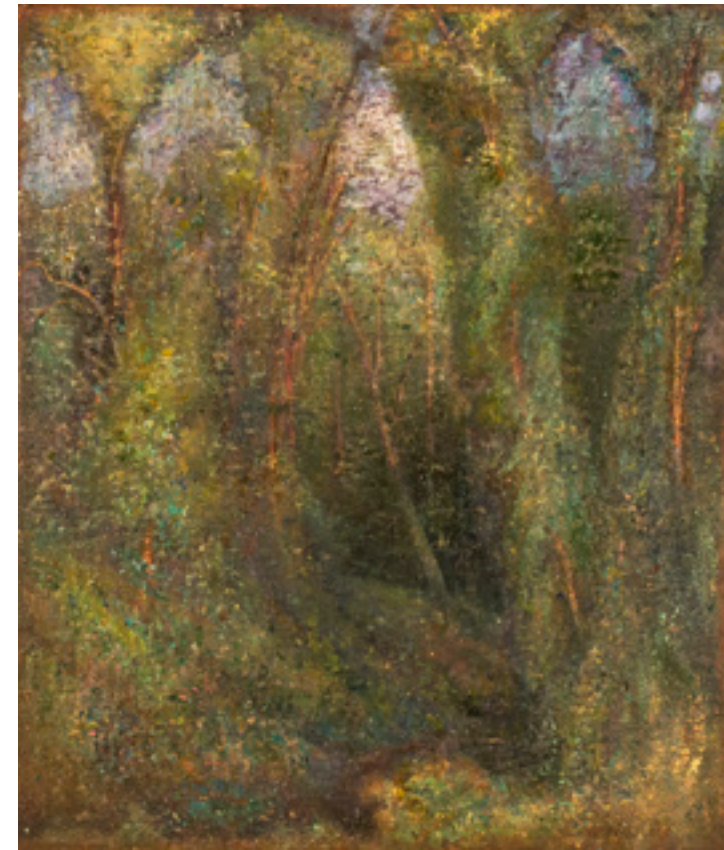


Eric Holzman

Embankment at Sleepy Hollow #2, 2017

Oil on linen

14 x 12 inches



Wolf Kahn

Green in Back, 2017

Oil on canvas

52 x 52 inches

Courtesy Ameringer / McEnery / Yohe Gallery, New York



Judith Linhares
Peonies, 2009
Oil on linen
22.5 x 26 inches



Carol March
Interior, 2003-2017
Oil on canvas
24 x 24 inches



Ruth Miller

Place Recalled Dusk, 2008

Oil on canvas

12 x 16 inches



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