

SIKKEMA JENKINS&CO.

MARLENE McCARTY *INTO THE WEEDS: SEX & DEATH*

June 22 – July 30, 2021

Sikkema Jenkins & Co. is pleased to present *Into the Weeds: Sex & Death*, an expansive, multi-dimensional installation conceived by Marlene McCarty. The project presents a series of new, large-scale drawings alongside an indoor garden and composting structures within the gallery space. The exhibition extends onto West 22nd Street with an outdoor garden sited in front of the gallery. *Into the Weeds* will be on view June 22 through July 30, 2021.

Using everyday materials such as graphite and ballpoint pen, McCarty's work often focuses on representations of the female body, femininity, and its position within familial and biological systems. Her subjects are depicted engaging in unorthodox or transgressive social formations, breaking down the traditional, accepted interactions among humans and other species, as well as between humans and nature. For *Into the Weeds*, McCarty turns to plants, and their complex ecocultural role within society to explore issues of reproductive health, physical autonomy, public space, and the symbiosis of growth and decay.

Throughout history, certain plants and weeds have been foraged and cultivated for a wide range of purposes, both curative and toxic. The alkaloids of the deadly nightshade, for example, have also been used to treat fevers and inflammation, while mugwort has been used to regulate menstruation and induce abortion. Seedlings have been cultivated and installed alongside McCarty's densely drawn compositions of plants, weeds, body parts, clothing, and abstract geometric forms. Meticulously shaded limbs and flowers interlace one another, mirroring each other's shape with the curl of a finger or the droop of a petal. This interplay of human body and plant are disrupted by various symbols alluding to a hegemony of white western culture: a Civil War ball gown, cowboy hat, and fragments of Modernist architecture, including the honeycomb-esque Vessel at Hudson Yards. Within these chimerical gardens lies a contentious ecosystem, constantly negotiating the power dynamics across gender, race, health, and history.

The external component of *Into the Weeds* features a garden installed in a low profile dumpster at the gallery's entrance on West 22nd Street. As part of the original exhibition presented and organized by UB Arts Collaboratory, McCarty cultivated a composting site and permanent garden within the complex of decommissioned grain elevators at Silo City in Buffalo, NY. Like the paradoxical effects of botanical healthcare, the compost pile itself is a site of contradictions, fertilizing new life through decomposition. To take space for it in the public realm can be seen as a statement of reclamation, the recuperation of terrain in the name of local autonomy.

Marlene McCarty (born 1957, Lexington, KY) studied at the University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture and Art 1975-77 and Schule für Gestaltung, Basel Switzerland from 1978-83. Since the 1980s, McCarty has worked across a variety of mediums, though drawing with everyday materials such as graphite or a ballpoint pen has become central to her work.

McCarty was a member of the AIDS activist collective Gran Fury and was the co-founder of the transdisciplinary design studio, Bureau, with Donald Moffett. A major survey exhibition, *Hard-Keepers*, was presented at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin in 2013. In addition to the presentation organized by UB Arts Collaboratory at UB Art Galleries and Silo City, other iterations of *Into the Weeds* were presented at Kunsthaus Baselland in Basel, Switzerland and Last Tango in Zurich, both in 2020. Her work is in the collection of major institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Brooklyn Museum; and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

For additional information please contact Scott Briscoe at 212.929.2262 or scott@sikkemajenkinsco.com.

UPCOMING:
KAY ROSEN

SEP. 9 – OCT. 23

530 W 22ND STREET - NEW YORK, NY 10011
212.929.2262 - GALLERY@SIKKEMAJENKINSCO.COM
OPEN TUESDAY – SATURDAY 10 TO 6

MARLENE MCCARTY

INTO THE WEEDS: SEX & DEATH

June 22 – July 30, 2021

OUTDOOR GARDEN:

1.

Into the Weeds: SEX, 2021

Soil, wood, rubber, steel, wood chips, medicinal plants



Actaea racemosa (Black cohosh); *Anethum graveolens* (dill); *Foeniculum vulgare* (fennel); *Artemisia vulgaris* (mugwort); *Cicuta maculata* (water hemlock); *Convallaria majalis* (lily of the valley); *Deucus carota* (Queen Anne's lace); Cleavers (gallium aparine); *Asclepias syriaca* (common milkweed); *Gossypium hirsutum* (cotton); *Hedeoma pulegiodes* (pennyroyal); *Leonurus cardiaca* (motherwort); *Oenothera biennis* (evening primrose); *Origanum vulgare* (oregano/marjoram); *Petroselinum crispum* (parsley); *Abrus precatorius* (castor bean/rosary pea); *Rosa* (rose); *Ruta graveolens* (rue); *Tanacetum vulgare* (tansy); *Vitex agnus-castus* (chaste tree)

FRONT GALLERY (clockwise from left):

2.



WEED: Modern Masters Lower Chakras Bound (Achilea millefolium), 2020-21

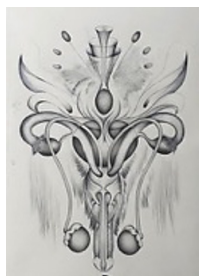
Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper, in artist frame

53 x 38 inches

134.6 x 96.5 cm

MM 19500

3.



WEED: Entropic Anticipation, 2020-21

Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper, in artist frame

53 x 38 inches

134.6 x 96.5 cm

MM 19501

4.



WEED: Our Lady of the Flowers (Aconitum), 2020-21
Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper, in artist frame
53 x 38 inches
134.6 x 96.5 cm
MM 19502

5.



HOT BOX PROTOTYPE SERIES A: Master Bloviator Upended, Song of the Cetacea, 2021
Rift sawn Kentucky Red Oak, indoor compost concoction, graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
Overall: 72 x 22 x 16 inches (182.9 x 55.9 x 40.6 cm)
Drawing: 17 x 13 inches (43.2 x 33 cm)
MM 19499

MAIN GALLERY (clockwise from left):

6.



Monarch's Meal, Asclepias syrica, Danaus plexippus, Hevea Brasiliensis, Mentha pulegium., 2020-21
Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
94 x 70 1/2 inches
238.8 x 179.1 cm
MM 19508

7.



Lenape, da Verrazzano, Patrician Sandal, New Amsterdam, Vessel, Wonderment, Rue, Mutagenic Growth, Hepatic Toxicity., 2019
Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
94 x 70 1/2 inches
238.8 x 179.1 cm
MM 19507

8.



Decay, Water Hemlock, Glabrous Protuberance, Hair Loss, Queen Anne's Lace, Modern Sculpture, Hirsutism and Multi-species Competition., 2019
Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
94 x 70.5 inches
182.9 x 139.7 cm
MM 18919

9.



HOT BOX PROTOTYPE SERIES A: Master Bloviator Subdued, Vitex agnus, 2021
 Rift sawn Kentucky Red Oak, indoor compost concoction, graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
 Overall: 72 x 22 x 16 inches (182.9 x 55.9 x 40.6 cm)
 Drawing: 17 x 13 inches (43.2 x 33 cm)
 MM 19497

10.



White Man's Footstep, Plantago major., 2020-21
 Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
 94 x 70 1/2 inches
 238.8 x 179.1 cm
 MM 19505

11.



Odor of Elephant Carrion, Penny Loafers, Larvae, Watteau, Civil War Ball gown, Colonization and Decomposition, Commercial Branding, Monk's Pepper, Masculist Sculpture, Corpse Flower, Vitex agnus., 2019
 Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
 94 x 70 1/2 inches
 238.8 x 179.1 cm
 MM 19504

12.



Spare Tire, Sputter, Slinger, Spurt, Chasteberry, Monk's Pepper, Yee Haw., 2019
 Graphite and ballpoint pen on paper
 94 x 70 1/2 inches
 238.8 x 179.1 cm
 MM 19503

INDOOR GARDEN:

13.



Into the Weeds: DEATH and Other Altered States, 2021
 Soil, wood, rubber, steel, wood chips, medicinal plants
Achillea millefolium (yarrow); *Aconitum* (monkshood); *Ageratina altissima* (white snakeroot); *Atropa belladonna* (deadly nightshade); *Cicuta maculata* (water hemlock); *Convallaria majalis* (lily of the valley); *Datura stramonium* (jimson weed); *Hedeoma pulegiodes* (pennyroyal); *Helleborus niger* (Christmas rose); *Nerium oleander* (oleander); *Nicotiana rustica* (tobacco); *Phytolacca americana* (pokeweed); *Ricinus communis* (castor bean); *Abrus precatorius* (rosary pea)