

# LMCC PRESENTS MEG WEBSTER'S WAVE AT THE ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND JUNE 12–OCTOBER 31

EXPANSIVE SITE-RESPONSIVE EXHIBITION FEATURES  
NEW WORKS ALONGSIDE A SELECTION SPANNING THE  
ACCLAIMED ARTIST'S CAREER  
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



Top row, L-R: Meg Webster, *Solar Grow Room* (detail), 2016. Photo: Steven Probert. © Meg Webster. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.; Installation view of Meg Webster's *Largest Blown Sphere* (1987) in front of her video *Waterfall* (*Houston Brook Falls*) (1996) in the exhibition *Blue Sky* at Morris-Healy Gallery © Meg Webster. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.; Meg Webster, *Waterfall* (*Houston Brook Falls*) (still) (1996) © Meg Webster. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.; Bottom row: Meg Webster, *Concave Room for Bees* (detail) (2016), installation view; *Landmark* at Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY. Photo: John Hatfield. © Meg Webster. Courtesy Socrates Sculpture Park and Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.

April 26, 2021—**Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC)** is proud to present **Meg Webster's** site-responsive exhibition, *Wave*, at **The Arts Center at Governors Island** from **June 12–October 31**, curated by LMCC Curator **Alice Russotti**. Comprised of both newly commissioned works and a selection of pieces drawn from across Webster's career from 1989 to the present, *Wave* continues the artist's sustained and unwavering commitment to nature, using her artistic practice as a tool to communicate its inherently complex systems while also highlighting the functional role that humans play within this ecological network.

Webster's unique visual language takes shape at the nexus between the formal vocabulary of Minimalism and the conceptual vision of Land Art. In *Wave*, forms are distilled into archetypal structures, setting a stage onto which natural materials of peat, seeds and their resulting

flowering plants, moss and glass are in dialogue. The physicality of the works grounds the viewer and directs them through space while the organic materials grow, evolve and create sites of constant happening—connecting the natural microcosms in the gallery with the larger interconnected realities of the natural world beyond.

In *Waterfall (Houston Brook Falls)* (1996), we see projected a race of water over rock slowly pummeled into form, a momentary union of elements only ever to be repeated through this chance recording. Standing before this waterfall, we encounter *Largest Blown Spheres* (1987), a group of five blown glass orbs which are as large as can be made without artificial means, using human breath and balancing the large mass of glass on the blowing pipe. In the tradition of Webster's *Moss Beds* and *Mother Mounds*, *Moss Mound* (2021), a work created on site at The Arts Center, softly rises to eye level, echoing the curves of the glass spheres and interrupting the rectilinear exhibition space. Through the air, a chorus of birds and insects emanate from a (re)recording of *Nearest Virgin Forest* (1987/2021), a sound piece consisting of unedited field recordings sourced from the Hutcheson Memorial Forest, one of the last uncut forests in the Mid-Atlantic. Finally, two works interconnect through shared organic materials, space and time, making manifest a complete life cycle instigated by the artist and completed by nature: *Growing Piece* (2021) sits 54-feet long across the gallery floor, assembled on site as a living nursery for *Pollinating Garden* (2021), presented in partnership with GrowNYC and located a short walk across Governors Island at their Teaching Garden. *Growing Piece* and *Pollinating Garden* (its extended manifestation outside the exhibition space) both intend to enact a generative chain of interconnected relationships between living organisms, from the seed to the sprout, to the transplanted flowering organism, to wind- and insect-mediated pollination—a vital link in the reproductive cycle of plants and an irreplaceable source of food, habitat and shelter for countless other life forms. The seeds sprouted during *Wave* will continue their life cycle not only in *Pollinating Garden* but for repeated seasons elsewhere on the island and beyond.

The combination of works within the exhibition bring a number of different sites into conversation both on and off the Island. This interplay between those physically on site in the gallery, and those that provide a trace of or reference to physical spaces off site, beyond the gallery, add a further layer of temporal interaction as we witness fragments from different times and spaces in the same moment. By layering the trace of ancient growth onto real-time germination we see a non-linear collapsing, stretching and interconnecting of time. In so doing, Webster subtly inflects our understanding of natural time, reorienting the viewer towards a more expansive, multifaceted experience of the surrounding world and allowing us to see how it resolutely builds upon its own ancestral code to create the ever-evolving technology of life.

While relative newcomers to the ecology of existence, humans are very much incorporated into Webster's vision. As visitors move through the space in relation to the work, they become another living, growing and evolving object brought into the gallery by the artist for a moment, before reentering the complexities of life beyond. Elevating nature to art, transforming the viewer into nature, and inviting us to witness her own creative strategies of maintenance and care in service of it all, Webster works within a tradition of social sculpture dissolving the boundaries that separate art, nature, humans and life, to move us towards a unified vision of the future.

“As we experience planetary shifts generated by the convergence of climate change, a viral pandemic and new technologies, we look to artistic visionaries such as Meg Webster to imagine and build new futures, and to deepen our understanding of the world around us,” commented **Lili Chopra**, Executive Director of Artistic Programs at LMCC. “The unique context of The Arts

Center and Governors Island is central to the work presented, providing audiences with opportunities to inquire into these systems and environments that bend, fluctuate and connect us, while creating possibilities for conversations and change.”

LMCC Curator **Alice Russotti** adds, “Meg is wild about nature. Her passion and commitment to presenting its radical content is intoxicating and drives one to learn more about the world around us that we so often not only overlook but also misuse. Through a visual language of poetic simplicity and physical directness, she shows us that the simplest of organisms exist because of a universe of wonderfully complex interconnecting systems.”

*Wave* is one of three exhibitions and installations at The Arts Center at Governors Island, opening June 12 and running through the end of the Island’s 2021 public season on October 31. Visit [LMCC.net](https://www.lmcc.net) for details. Additional 2021 public programming will be announced soon, including signature Open Studios events and the return of LMCC’s popular Take Care series, which furthers ideas presented in The Arts Center’s art installations and reframes engagement in artistic and curatorial processes as a mindful practice stemming from embodied participation and care. **All programming and events at The Arts Center are free and open to the public, and all are welcome.** Appropriate COVID-19 public health protocols will be in place.

## VISITOR INFORMATION

**Meg Webster**

*Wave*

June 12–October 31, Thursday–Sunday, 12–5 p.m.

The Arts Center at Governors Island

Curated by Alice Russotti, LMCC

The Arts Center at Governors Island

110 Andes Rd, New York, NY 10004, Building 110

Google Maps: [The Arts Center at Governors Island](https://www.google.com/maps/place/The+Arts+Center+at+Governors+Island)

The Arts Center at Governors Island is accessible by ferries operating to and from Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn. It is a 2-minute walk from the Soissons Landing pier (ferries from Manhattan). For the Governors Island ferry schedule, please visit <https://govisland.com/visit-the-island/ferry>

## ABOUT MEG WEBSTER

Born in San Francisco in 1944, Meg Webster received an MFA from Yale University in 1983. Her work finds inspiration in the intrinsic beauty of natural materials. Using metal, glass and organic elements like salt, soil, twigs and moss, the artist creates large-scale installations and precise structures rooted in the traditions of Land Art of the 1970s. Webster draws on the rigorous formal vocabulary of minimalism to create simple, geometric forms that directly and perceptually engage the body and its senses.

Webster’s work has been exhibited at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Israel; the Rooseum, Malmö, Sweden; the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York; and the P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in Long Island City, New York. In 2017 Webster participated in the two-person exhibition, *Natura Naturans* at Villa Panza in Varese, Italy. She also presented her large-scale earthwork, *Concave Room for Bees*, at Socrates

Sculpture Park, commissioned for their 2016 exhibition, *LANDMARK*. Webster currently lives and works in New York.

## **ABOUT GOVERNORS ISLAND**

Governors Island is a 172-acre island in the heart of New York Harbor nestled between Lower Manhattan and the Brooklyn waterfront. Eight minutes from the energy and excitement of the City, the Island is a popular seasonal destination open to the public May 1–October 31. An award-winning new park is complemented by dozens of unique historic buildings, educational and cultural facilities, a rich arts and culture program and a 22-acre National Monument managed by the National Park Service. Looking forward, the Island is envisioned to be accessible year-round, with extraordinary open space, arts and culture, and education and research opportunities focused on climate solutions.

For more information, visit [govisland.org](http://govisland.org).

## **ABOUT THE ARTS CENTER AT GOVERNORS ISLAND**

Curated and presented by LMCC, The Arts Center at Governors Island is an incubator for creative experimentation and a gathering place for dialogue. Year-round residency programs that provide artists with studio and presenting space to develop their work are featured alongside a broad range of public events to convene artists and audiences in an exchange of ideas and creative practices. Work developed and presented at The Arts Center focuses on sustainability and equity.

The 2021 public season at The Arts Center at Governors Island pushes audiences to examine the fixity of the world around us, questioning the real and perceived narratives that, over time, have coalesced to create our current social, environmental and personal structures of justice and understandings of sustainability. In this exploration, water becomes the undercurrent of the exhibited works at The Arts Center: physically, as the vital life source with which we nourish and grow; and metaphysically, as the ever-shifting entity whose flows inform new ways to interact with and reimagine the world around us. Each project comprises its own universe of source material, subjects and information, while its simultaneous placement within the unique context of The Arts Center—on Governors Island, within New York City—unlocks the potential for cross-pollination of ideas such as systems of ecological growth and decay, knowledge creation and evolution, power and punishment and care and maintenance.

Through direct participation and embodied engagement, the season seeks to create avenues for the public to re-imagine the framework of our existence, both individually and collectively.

## **ABOUT LMCC**

Founded as Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, LMCC serves, connects and makes space for artists and community.

LMCC Serves Artists through:

- [Residencies](#) that enable artists to experiment and develop their work and ideas, with professional development, financial training and networking opportunities
- [Grant funding](#) to artists that support local/neighborhood projects

- [Presentation opportunities](#) that allow artists to share their work and creative process with the public

LMCC Serves Community through:

- [Free public programs](#) in Lower Manhattan that activate neighborhoods and bring people together through performances and rich artistic experiences
- [Access to artists and the artmaking process](#) to build connections and dialogue between artists and audiences
- [Grant funding](#) for neighborhood arts and community-based organizations

Since 1973, LMCC has been the quiet champion for independent artists in New York City and the cultural life force of Lower Manhattan.

[LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net)

## ABOUT UGG®

Meg Webster: *Wave* is underwritten by UGG®. Founded in 1978 by an Australian surfer on the coast of California, UGG® is a global lifestyle brand renowned for its iconic Classic boot. In 2016, UGG® as part of Deckers Brands joined the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC), the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with over 9,500 participating companies. As part of the UNGC commitments, the brand set targets relating to waste, water, materials, chemicals, climate and clean energy, and human rights and equality. For more information, please visit [www.ugg.com](http://www.ugg.com) @ugg #FEELUGG.

## SUPPORTERS

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Meg Webster: *Wave* is underwritten by UGG®. Special thanks to Paula Cooper Gallery and GrowNYC.

Meg Webster's *Pollinating Garden*, presented by LMCC in partnership with GrowNYC's Teaching Garden, is part of the exhibition *Wave* presented at The Arts Center at Governors Island.

Onyedika Chuke: *The Forever Museum Archive\_Circa 6000BCE* is presented in partnership with Pioneer Works.

Onyedika Chuke: *The Forever Museum Archive\_Circa 6000BCE* is supported, in part, by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, the ForGood Fund, the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Foster Pride, and Young New Yorkers.

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The Arts Center Residency is also supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

LMCC is also grateful to our many capital supporters. For a list of capital supporters, please visit [LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net).

LMCC additionally acknowledges our partnership with the Trust for Governors Island.

[LMCC.net](http://LMCC.net)

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