



# MEG WEBSTER

## WAVE

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1

## **Moss Mound**

Peat Moss, earth, hay, plastic tarp  
17ft x 4ft, 2021

In the tradition of Webster's *Moss Beds* and *Mother Mounds*, *Moss Mound* was created on site at The Arts Center and softly rises to eye level, echoing the curves of the glass spheres and interrupting the rectilinear exhibition space. The work supports the growth of moss, an organism that has been on earth for billions of years. One of the first plants to grow on rocky land by breaking down rocks and soil, it helps create an environment for other plants to grow. Physically contained within one of the rational geometric forms Webster is known for, the windows that frame the work put it in direct conversation with the island beyond.

2

## **Growing Piece**

Galvanized steel, peat, potting plants, plants, grow lights  
54ft x 3ft

While presenting the viewer with a range of pollinating plants and flowers at different stages of early growth, this work also functions as an active nursery; throughout the season, plants will be transplanted to the GrowNYC Teaching Garden on Governors Island to create the *Pollinating Garden*. Central to this work are human expressions of care and maintenance—from the stratification of the seeds, to the initial planting in trays, to the Visitor Engagement Associate's watering and the use of grow light technology. Together these human aids harness the natural growth potential of each seed, focusing us on the support we must provide nature to ensure resilient and sustained growth. The steel base provides a staging ground for these plants, similar to other works throughout Webster's career where we see nature contained within a minimal form. In this instance, we see an expansion of organic material, rather than its encapsulation.

3

## **Largest Blown Sphere**

Glass  
36x36in, 1987

The body and the senses are directly engaged though Webster's five blown glass orbs. Handmade with human breath by balancing the large mass of glass on the blowing pipe, each orb is as large as possible without the use of artificial means. They are another poetic example of the artist containing living matter within minimal forms. The beauty of these objects also incorporates the naturally occurring imperfections of the material. The suspension of breath in the present from a time passed and the circular shape of the spheres connect us with larger themes in the exhibition around ecological cycles of life and death, while their reflective quality acts as a portal through which water from the projection is drawn into the gallery, expanding the breadth of our understanding of nature beyond the time and space of The Arts Center.

4

## **Waterfall (Houston Brook Falls)**

video [color, sound], 60 minutes  
Dimensions variable, 1996  
Shot by the artist on a handheld video recorder while walking with her dog, this projection presents the viewer with images of a waterfall in Maine and close-ups of water in motion. As our life source, water binds the exhibition together, and as its reflections spill out over the gallery floor, connects the installation with the New York Harbor, the City and the world beyond. As also shown in *Growing Piece*, this work highlights the importance of origin for Webster, while simultaneously drawing attention to a focused point within a natural cycle.

5

## **Nearest Virgin Forest (Hutcheson Memorial Forest)**

Audio  
1987/2021

The sound of birds and other wild-life filtering through the gallery is an unedited recording taken in the Hutcheson Memorial Forest. Protected and administered by Rutgers University, the Hutcheson Memorial Forest Center consists of the 26 ha Mettler's Woods, the primeval, mixed oak forest that is one of the last uncut stands of this sort of forest in the United States. The recording imbues the exhibition with hundreds of years of natural history, placing the individual's moment of interaction with the work within the larger ecological cycles of existence.

6

## **Pollinating Garden**

**Location: GrowNYC Teaching Garden on Governors Island**  
[MAP](#)

Presented in partnership with GrowNYC and located a short walk from The Arts Center across Governors Island at their Teaching Garden, *Pollinating Garden* is the manifestation of *Growing Piece* beyond the gallery, extending the life cycle of the plants grown as part of *Growing Piece*. The work is intended to enact a generative chain of interconnected relationships between living organisms: from seed to 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.

## Plant Information List