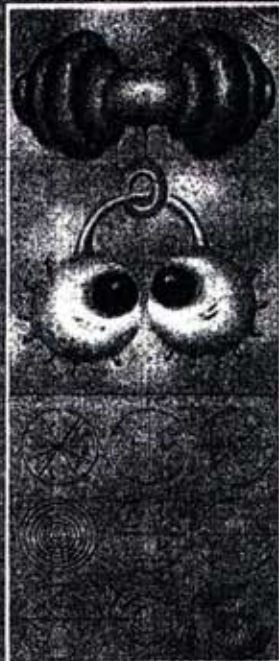


NOTIONS

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BETTER LIVING

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Wave Hill examines the wonders and colors of the natural world this fall with two new and very different exhibits.

In "Pondering the Marvelous," on view in the Glyndor Gallery, Emilie Clark, Karla Knight and Eva Lee explore the complexity of scale and perception in nature in comprehensive groups of drawings and paintings on paper.

The other show, "Primacy Through Experience," in the Wave Hill House Gallery, is a series of drawings by Luis Serrano, who worked entirely from Riverside and Morningside parks on Manhattan's Upper West Side.

A sense of wonder and curiosity threads through each artist's approach to recording ideas, experiences and observations in "Pondering the Marvelous." Scientific sources inspire, but ultimately each work springs from the artist's imagination to tease and hint at the marvelous expanse of the natural world.

In "Letters to Mary Ward," Ms. Clark corresponds with a 19th-century Irish natural historian, painter and writer. The starting point is Ms. Ward's book, *A World of Wonders Revealed by the Microscope*, which conveys her observations of collected plant and animal specimens.

Ms. Clark interpreted the treatise as a personal letter with a series of 54 watercolors based on each of Ms. Ward's written descriptions of life observed through the microscope. For the second group, Ms. Clark chose 54 specimens from her own collection to paint. Her letters and paintings create a personal bridge, placing observation and shared wonder at the center of the project.

Ms. Knight exhibits ledger paper paintings from her "Super Eye Vision" series of imaginary biomorphic images and objects. Some paintings appear to depict a microscopic world, while others allude to the vast cosmos.

Ms. Lee exhibits a group of black and white ink drawings that express a fascination with the immensity of nature's scale and structures. With basic dots and lines, Ms. Lee creates shapes and systems that increase in complexity, allowing the viewer to ponder these vast cellular and cosmic structures.

All three artists have exhibited their works extensively throughout the country. Ms. Clark's "Letters to Mary Ward" was first shown last year at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin, Ireland; as well as in Italy.

Mr. Serrano strived to achieve a balance between the physical and spiritual worlds in "Primacy Through Experience." His drawings "tackle the first-hand experience of nature and the visible order and chaos found within the natural world." The sensory information found in leaves, trunks, dirt, even empty space are translated as concretely as if being touched by the tip of the pencil.

Though this is his first exhibit in New York, Mr. Serrano has shown his work extensively in California.

"Primacy Through Experience" and "Pondering the Marvelous" both run through Nov. 28. Wave Hill is located at 675 W. 252nd St.