

VISITOR CENTER

233 LIBERTY STREET, NEWBURGH NY 12550

PROVENANCE

EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY WORKS ENGAGING CRAFT MEDIA
ON VIEW AT VISITOR CENTER, APRIL 15, 2023–JUNE 3, 2023

VISITOR CENTER proudly announces *Provenance*, an exhibition opening April 15, 2023, that will feature works by [Sophia De Jesus-Sabella](#), [Soull Ogun](#), [Patricia Orpilla](#), [Sagarika Sundaram](#), and [Mia Wright-Ross](#). *Provenance* will present contemporary artists who engage craft materials and traditions to consider intertwining notions of materiality, lineage, and identity.

ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

The ownership history of an art object, or *provenance*, is often recorded by cultural institutions in an effort to qualify an object's authenticity or value. This practice frequently treats an object as its own entity from its completion to the present, separate from its creator, as it travels between places and amongst collectors. Recontextualizing the idea of *provenance*, this exhibition will encourage a broader application that centers and celebrates the layered histories and influences inherent to an object by re-engaging the agency of both the artist and the viewer.

The contemporary artists represented employ traditions, materials, and techniques associated with craft. This commonality is not coincidental, as craft media – including the weaving, metalsmithing, felting, and leather artisanship on view – are intrinsically rich with memory.

To observe any artwork is to activate it with one's own interpretation; with craft media, the artwork is distinctly loaded with tactile connotations, historical applications, generational techniques, and material associations. *Provenance* thus presents works that are bolstered by their pasts, the identities of their creators, and the associations unearthed in the viewer.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sophia De Jesus-Sabella is an artist, weaver, and educator based in Hartford, Connecticut. Influenced by her blue-collar upbringing, her woven and sculptural works interrogate class, gender, queerness, and utility by combining traditional handweaving with found construction materials. She graduated with Departmental Honors in Fibers from Massachusetts College of Art and Design and has been an Artist in Residence at ACRE, Haystack Mountain School of Crafts and Hartford Artisans Weaving Center. She has shown with Distillery Gallery, MassArt Art Museum, Hudson Valley MOCA and Atlantic Gallery.

Soull Ogun explores the relationship between ancient metal fabrication techniques, contemporary philosophy, solar technology, and the reimagining of Afro-Futurism in her jewelry and sculptural practices, utilizing metalsmithing techniques that encompass and encourage a rich history of blending regality with science. Ogun is co-founder and head designer of [L'Enchanteur](#), a jewelry, clothing, and lifestyle incubator that seeks to redefine the meaning of an heirloom.

VISITOR CENTER, 233 Liberty Street., Newburgh, NY 12550

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Ogun has created bespoke jewelry for artists including Ms. Lauryn Hill, Erykah Badu, and Beyoncé in the film *Black is King*. She was formerly the lead jewelry designer for 3.1 Philip Lim and earned her BA from Morgan State University.

Patricia Orpilla uses an interdisciplinary process to create paintings, prints, and textiles. Her recent work is interested in the relationship of text to textiles. Her prints use indexical relationships between woven texture and bit mapping to draw relationships between systems that are materially or metaphorically interdependent. She is interested in the potential of material metaphors to engage questions around authorship, industry, and ideology. She references various archives for fingerprints of these narratives -- weaving patterns, religious texts, or ethnographer's notes become her source material. She received her MFA from Yale School of Art in painting and printmaking. She has been an artist resident at the Museum of Arts and Design and a fellow at the Beinecke Library where she researched ephemera such as maps and religious texts around 19th-century U.S.-Philippines relations. She has recently shown her work at Jeffrey Deitch, Kiosk Gallery, Front/Space, Beggar's Table, Vulpes Bastille, and H&R Block Artspace. She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Using ancient felt-making, dyeing and textile techniques found in India and around the world, **Sagarika Sundaram** creates abstract wool compositions that draw from nomadic architecture, history, philosophy and folk art. The artist explains, "In Hindi, there's this idea of 'roti, kapda, makan,' food, clothing and shelter – three basic needs in life. I relate these to the fields of agriculture, textiles and architecture; building blocks of every civilization." Some works are meant to be activated by the human body, on occasion by walking through them. The work references classical Tamil poetry, a literary tradition that evokes inner psychological landscapes through erotic descriptions of nature. Sundaram describes how, "Through an intricately patterned, shredded surface that expresses chaos and control, the work employs an abstract language that reinterprets textile as mutant, botanical, and psychedelic."

Mia Wright-Ross is a leather artisan who focuses on works in sculpture, tapestries, and lifestyle tools. Wright-Ross created MWR Collection, LLC., a design atelier specializing in leather crafting, to revive the necessity of the artisan in the design space and to educate future designers and artists in luxury processes. In addition to being the founder and creative director of MWR Collection, Mia Wright-Ross is an adjunct professor of Shoe Design & Construction at Parsons The New School for Design, a full-time design consultant, and was the Museum of Art & Design's 2020—21 Artist Fellow. Her client list includes J. Cole, Solange, Robert Glasper, Carmelo Anthony, Jimmy Butler, Issa Rae. Her work has been published in American Craft Magazine, Footwear News, Harper's Bazaar, Ebony Magazine, and Vogue. She has worked as a designer in the Footwear & Accessory Industry for over eleven years and began expanding her works in sculptural art in 2018.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Marissa Passi celebrates contemporary art and artists through her practice as a writer, educator, and producer of events, exhibitions, and zines. She has organized dynamic experiences in arts and education contexts throughout New York City, aiming to demystify contemporary creative practice by bringing artists and audiences in closer proximity. She is currently the Manager of Artist Studios and Interpretation at the Museum of Arts and Design (MAD). Previously, she was Assistant Director at The Sketchbook Project and Co-Founder and -Editor of the independent publication, *Canvas & Cassette*.

ABOUT VISITOR CENTER

VISITOR CENTER is a contemporary art gallery that features artists of the Hudson Valley and beyond who work in painting, sculpture, mixed media, sound, video, and virtual reality. Located in Newburgh, NY, it occupies 2,000 square feet on the ground level of the US workshop of Hysteria Glamour, an iconic Japanese streetwear company.

VISITOR CENTER is dedicated to supporting artists in the advancement of their practices and careers through a supportive community and curated exhibitions.

VISITOR CENTER is run by Eva Zanardi through her creative advisory firm EZARTCONSULTINGNYC LLC. Eva is a professional art advisor and writer who builds and manages collections for international estates, foundations, and individual collectors.

VISITOR CENTER is open Saturdays from 1-5 pm, and Thursday & Friday from 1-5 pm by appointment. For press inquiries, please contact Attila.King@visitorcenter.space or 917-703-9262. For other inquiries, please contact the gallery at 212-228-8965.

ABOUT NEWBURGH, NY

Newburgh—a jewel in the rough of a city located 60 miles north of Manhattan—has long been hailed as the new Brooklyn or Williamsburg, perhaps due to its demographic diversity or the fact that it boasts the largest historic district outside of New York City. As Julie Laskin perfectly noted in her December 2020 New York Times feature: "Newburgh doesn't just have good bones—it is magnificent." But Newburgh's narrative is much more layered than that: a city of 28,000 in Orange County has now become a haven for artists, designers, architects, artisans, and all kinds of creative individuals.

How to get to Newburgh from Manhattan (approx. 1 hour and 30 min):

Driving directions are linked [here](#). Metro-North Trains stop at the Beacon station, located just across the Hudson River from Newburgh. The Newburgh side ferry connects commuters to the station. The train runs south to Manhattan and north to Albany. Taxis are available at Beacon's train station; Uber and Lyft also offer rides across the Hudson River (approx. 15-minute ride).