



Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming

February 12 - May 16, 2015

SPELMAN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF FINE ART



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For more than four decades Maren Hassinger has been recognized as a pioneering artist who mindfully explores our relationship to nature, movement, and transformation. From her early years as an emerging artist working in Los Angeles in the early 1970s through her current role as the Director of the Rinehart School of Graduate Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Hassinger has been disrupting hierarchical and patriarchal art making traditions. Her highly meditative sculpture, performance, videos, and public art projects examine movement and our changing relationship to nature. In this original retrospective featuring works made from leaves, branches, wires, newspapers, plastic bags, and a variety of other materials, Hassinger critically examines the physical space of art practice and presentation.

Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming featuring sculpture, videos, and installations—several which were recreated expressly for this project—is a long awaited and timely examination of the artist’s life and work. Her restorative works encourage visitors to imagine a range of emotional experiences. They also challenge us to consider our changing relationship to nature over time, think about how we shift our behaviors in light of life’s ebbs and flows, and ponder how we adapt and survive over time within cultural ecosystems that are constantly in flux. Her work prompts thought-provoking questions such as what is the significance of creating art using materials that change or disintegrate? What is the impact of manipulating industrial materials so that they resemble items found in nature? What is the role of art in our cultural ecology? What does it mean to dream? This original exhibition brings a substantial number of Hassinger’s work to the Southeast for the first time and explores these and other related questions.

Andrea Barnwell Brownlee, Ph.D., Director
Anne Collins Smith, Curator of Collections

Wrenching News, 2010. Shredded, twisted, and wrapped newspapers (*New York Times*).
Wall: 7' x 7' x 1'. Floor: 6' x 6' x 1'. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Ava Hassinger.



Senga Nengudi, *R.S.V.P X* activated by Maren Hassinger, 2014. Cello: Laura Moody. © Senga Nengudi. Photo credit. George Darrell. Courtesy White Cube.

About Maren Hassinger

Maren Hassinger (b. 1947) completed her B.A. at Bennington College in Vermont in 1969 and her M.F.A in Fiber Structure at the University of California, Los Angeles in 1973. As an emerging artist working in Los Angeles, she began disrupting art-making traditions. Using bent, twisted, and frayed wire rope and other nontraditional materials that the art world often dismissed as craft, she created sculptures that resembled objects found in nature such as branches, bushes, and trees. As a performance artist who collaborated with artists including David Hammons, Ulysses Jenkins, and Senga Nengudi, she took the bold step of using the moving body as a medium and presenting performance in the museum. Combatting both patriarchal and hierarchical traditions, she began carving a unique place for herself in the art world.

In 1973 Hassinger began teaching—a career that enabled her to educate students at several art schools including Hunter College, Long Island University, and the State University of New York at Stony Brook. In 1997 she became the Director of the Rinehart School of Graduate Sculpture at the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. As her extensive exhibition record demonstrates, despite rigorous teaching obligations, she has maintained an active art practice. She has also helped advise and guide a younger generation of artists, especially sculptors and performance artists. In recent years her work has received long overdue and critical attention and has been featured in several important nationally touring group exhibitions including *Now Dig This!: Art of Black Los Angeles 1960 - 1980* (2011), *Material Girls: Contemporary Black Women Artists* (2011), and *Radical Presence: Black Performance in Contemporary Art* (2012).

The Dream (detail), 2001/2015. Bed canopy made from preserved red bud leaves. Dimensions variable. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Ben Kornegay.





Exhibition-related Programs

Opening Reception and Gallery Walk with the Artist

Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 | 6:30 p.m.

Be among the first to view *Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming* and attend a gallery walk led by the artist and Director of the Rinehart School of Graduate Sculpture at the Maryland Institute and College of Art, Maren Hassinger.

Yoga in the Museum

Mondays, Feb. 16 – April 27, 2015 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Enjoy a yoga class surrounded by works of art and engage in a practice that focuses on balance, focus, and strength. Each class will be led by the following certified yoga instructors:

February 16, 23 – Vanya Francis

March 2, 9 – Octavia Raheem

March 16 – Marr-Teen Guy

March 23, 30 – Chelsea Jackson

April 6, 13 – Jason Anderson

April 20, 27 – Ayodele Murphy



Yoga in the Museum is free and open to beginner and experienced yogis. Space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Yoga in the Museum is organized in partnership with the Department of Wellness.

Please contact us at 404.270.5607, museum@spelman.edu, or [@spelmanmuseum](https://twitter.com/spelmanmuseum) on Twitter with questions and for more information.

Spelman College Family Weekend: Tour the Museum

Friday, February 20, 2015 | 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Each year, Spelman College extends a warm welcome to the families of our students to experience all that Spelman has to offer. Join us for an interactive tour of *Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming*.

Visitor sitting on *Sit Upsons* (2010/2015), *The New York Times* newspaper, dimensions variable, watching *Wind* (2014) video by Maren Hassinger, Ava Hassinger, and Nicholas Buchanan at the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art. Courtesy the artist. Photo: Ben Kornegay.

Community Conversations

Community Conversations invite artists, Atlanta University Center faculty, staff, and students and Friends of the Museum to connect their passions and interests to the works of art featured in *Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming*.

On Creativity

Thursday, February 26, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

Join us for an interdisciplinary conversation on creativity through the lens of visual art, food, science, and dance with topics that range from process, inspiration, and collaboration.

Connecting the Dots: The Heidelberg Project and the Power of Art

Thursday, March 26, 2015 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Aku Kadogo, Spelman College Distinguished Visiting Scholar of the Arts, will present a special dialogue with Tyree Guyton, creator of the renowned Heidelberg Project of Detroit. Acting on his vision many years ago, he set out to respond to a city that was in a state of disrepair and despondency. Now in its 30th year, The Heidelberg Project is a thriving arts organization that aims to inspire and enrich all those who experience it.



Mr. Guyton will feature the installation *Heidelberg TV: The Baby Doll Show* Friday, March 27, 2015 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. in front of the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center.

Blues for an Alabama Sky

Thursday, April 2, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

Finding connections with Maren Hassinger's ground-breaking contribution to performance art and interdisciplinary practice, the Alliance Theatre presents a very special evening with Pearl Cleage, *C' 71*, the award-winning playwright, novelist, essayist, and poet commemorating the twentieth anniversary of her 1995 work *Blues for an Alabama Sky*. Join us for this behind-the-scenes reading and intimate discussion with Ms. Cleage.



This program is free, open to the public, and is organized in partnership with the Alliance Theater.

Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activism Conference Opening Celebration and the Atlanta Premier of *Women's Work* (2015)

Friday, March 20, 2015 | 7:00 p.m.

The Toni Cade Bambara Scholar-Activism Conference (March 20-21) is a two-day event that celebrates the work of the notable writer, activist, filmmaker, feminist, and educator. Complete with creative, intellectual, and community-organizing opportunities, the 14th annual convening is meditation on the contemporary struggles Black women face.

Maren Hassinger will present *Women's Work* (2006), a performance where selected participants collaborate with her in ways that allude to sewing, knitting, and other forms traditionally labeled women's work.



This program is organized in partnership with the Women's Research & Resource Center. For more information about the Toni Cade Bambara Conference, please call 404.270.5625.

"Are You Sure, Sweetheart, That You Want To Be Well?:" A Contemplative Retreat for Self Healing

Saturday, March 21, 2015 | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Reconnect to the source of your inspiration and gain strength, courage, and tools to live more dynamically despite the challenges of daily life. Veta Goler, Ph.D., Co-Director of the Teaching Resource and Research Center and Associate Professor of Dance, Spelman College, will guide you through a lively mix of movement, reflection, and creative art-making to develop a deeper connection with yourself.



This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please call 404.270.5607 or email museum@spelman.edu to reserve a space.

Community Day

Saturday, April 18, 2015 | 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A fun-filled exploration of *Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming* for participants of all ages that includes make-and-take workshops, interactive tours, giveaways from local cultural institutions, and more.

All events are free and open to the public.

Guided Tours

The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art provides guided tours that are free of charge and open to the public.

The Museum, in collaboration with Grow Where You Are, LLC, will offer monthly tours that engage our portable planting environment with *Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming*.

To schedule a group tour or receive more information, please contact the Museum at **museum@spelman.edu** or **404.270.5607**.



Maren Hassinger . . . Dreaming was made possible by the Friends of the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art.

Additional support provided by



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BECOME A FRIEND

The Spelman College Museum of Fine Art is the only museum in the nation that emphasizes art by and about women of the African Diaspora. The Museum relies on the support and generosity of Friends and Patrons. By joining this unique cultural institution, you will support the Museum's new acquisitions, special exhibitions, related programs, exclusive events, and outreach programs. Visit museum.spelman.edu to **join today**.

STAY CONNECTED |



The Museum is increasingly using the web, email and social media to connect with visitors and Friends. For advance notice about upcoming exhibition-related programs, subscribe to the Museum at museum.spelman.edu, follow the Museum on Facebook at facebook.com/spelmanmuseum, on Twitter at twitter.com/spelmanmuseum and on Instagram at instagram.com/spelmanmuseum.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY

The Museum is printing and mailing less frequently and, therefore, saving resources and reducing its impact on the environment. Instead, it is increasingly communicating with its growing community online. Subscribe to our newsletter and join the conversations at museum.spelman.edu.

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SPELMAN COLLEGE MUSEUM OF FINE ART
in the Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center

GPS system address: 440 Westview Drive, SW 30310
350 Spelman Lane, Box 1526 | Atlanta, GA 30314 | 404.270.5607
museum.spelman.edu | museum@spelman.edu

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Hours: Tuesdays - Fridays | 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Saturdays | Noon - 4:00 p.m.
Closed Sunday, Monday, holidays, and Spelman College breaks

COVER IMAGE: Maren Hassinger, *Love* (detail), 2008. Pink plastic shopping bags each filled with a love note and inflated with human breath.