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Please, Please, Pleased to Meet'cha

Nina Katchadourian

Wave Hill

June 11 - October 31, 2006

Reception: June 11, 1 - 4pm

From June 11-October 31, 2006, artist Nina Katchadourian presents the outdoor installation *Please, Please, Pleased to Meet'cha*, featuring sound recordings of human voices speaking transliterated birdsongs. Sound resonates from speakers installed in trees, so that visitors encounter the recordings as they stroll the grounds. The work explores the challenge of “translating” bird sounds into human language, through use of diagrams and mnemonics. *Please, Please, Pleased to Meet'cha*, the project title, is the song of the chestnut-sided warbler, a bird common to Wave Hill.



Human voices “translate” the songs of the black-capped chickadee, chestnut-sided warbler, white-throated sparrow, grackle, catbird and red-winged blackbird.

The recorded voices vary in terms of gender, quality of voice and national origin. Since the piece springs from a “translation problem,” Katchadourian chose to record the voices of translators from the United Nations, without birding experience. "For many, the UN embodies a utopian faith in the possibility of communication across national boundaries. In the context of my project, this association might induce a feeling of clumsy but sincere good will in the human voices towards the birds they are trying to approximate. Perhaps there is even an acoustic grey zone where the human voice and the bird voice meet." Each of six trees will feature one bird, performed by several different people, so that a listener can sense the variety of interpretation.

After research and consultation with **New York City Audubon**, birds were selected that appear regularly at Wave Hill in summer and fall. An available “birding guide” maps the tree locations and offers information on each bird. Indoors, a listening station with recordings compares the human recordings with actual birdsongs. **Created for *generated@wavehill*, a program of site-related work, the project aims to make visitors aware of resident and migrating birds, and people’s attempts to understand their song.**

(Continued on reverse)

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nina Katchadourian is a Brooklyn-based artist. She has exhibited internationally, and has a solo survey exhibition opening in June at the Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery. Her most recent site-specific work was at the Neuberger Museum for the Public Art Biennial. Over the past eight years, Katchadourian's work as oriented itself around "nature" as a concept, construct and site. Past projects, including the *Mended Spiderweb* series (1999), *Animal Crossdressing* (2003), and *Natural Car Alarms* (2002) explore the ways in which we place ourselves in relation to the natural world, and the simultaneous and often contradictory desire to find both similarity and difference there. Translation has also played a central role in past work, including *Translation Exercise* and *Talking Popcorn* (2001). She is represented by Sara Meltzer Gallery, NYC.

Curator: Jennifer McGregor

Assistant Curator: Erica Strongin

RELATED PROGRAM

July 16, 1pm Birds: Habitats & Songs

A panel discussion with **Lang Elliot**, a naturalist and author of many books on birds including *Music of the Birds A Celebration of Bird Song*; **E. J. McAdams**, Executive Director of New York City Audubon; **David Rothenberg**, musician and author of *Why Birds Sing*; and artist **Nina Katchadourian**. Call 718.549.3200 x305 to register.

ALSO ON VIEW

Garden Improvement Glyndor Gallery and grounds

June 11-August 27, 2006 Reception: June 11, 1-4pm

Artists look at how a garden is made more inhabitable and domesticated through humble, do-it-yourself ideas born from artists' spirit of invention. Joan Bankemper, Karen Rich Beall, Jimbo Blachly & Lytle Shaw, Laure Drogoul, Charles Goldman, Paula Hayes, Marguerite Kahrl & Paul Ruff, Catarina Leitão, Cassandra Lozano, Philip Ross, Rachel Selekman, Austin Thomas and Andy Yoder.

HOURS

9am to 5:30pm, Tues-Sun. Open until 9pm on Wednesdays in June & July.

WAVE HILL ADMISSION

\$4; \$2/Seniors, Students; FREE Members and children under 6; FREE Tuesday; FREE 9am to noon Saturday

Wave Hill A public garden & cultural center
675 West 252nd Street Bronx, New York 10471
718.549.3200 www.wavehill.org

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Please, Please, Pleased to Meet'cha is presented in collaboration with New York City Audubon.



The Arts at Wave Hill are sponsored by **TARGET**.