

Verdant

GALLERY GUIDE



Tim Knowles, detail of Weeping Willow on Circular Panel (not exhibited).

ART AS AN END OR A MEANS?

PAULA HAYES

Paula Hayes creates living works of art that are not only meant to be looked *at*, but must be carefully looked *after*. Hayes considers her role as one of nurturer, and extends this responsibility to gallery staff who exhibit her work, and to collectors who purchase it. By owning one of Hayes' terrariums, a collector enters a contractual agreement, which states that the owner is "under obligation" to properly care for the living artwork.



What do you think? Are Paula's artworks more like sculptures or performances?

Paula Hayes, Living Necklace (not exhibited).

WORKINGMAN COLLECTIVE

The Workingman Collective's interactive sculpture, *Swing*, invites visitors to sit, gather, and share a social experience together while a variety of potted plants eliminate Volatile Organic Compounds from the surrounding air. These VOCs (which can include formaldehyde and ammonia) can be found in concentrated amounts in enclosed spaces and are off-gassed from everyday items like paints, glues, and cleaning products. In *Swing*, the Workingman Collective selected plants from environmental scientist Bill Wolverton's studies of VOC-eliminating household plants.

Notice the plants used in Swing. Do you recognize any of the varieties from your own everyday experience?



The Golden Pothos (right) is just one of many common house plants that scientist Bill Wolverton found effectively eliminate VOCs like benzene, which can be found in tobacco smoke and stored paint.

CHANCE AS AN ARTMAKING TOOL

TIM KNOWLES

Tim Knowles partners with plant life in his artmaking process, having devised a system that allows trees to "draw." He gives up the responsibility of the artist's hand and embraces chance—allowing the wind and unique characteristics of each tree to dictate the outcome of a drawing. Knowles also makes use of happenstance in his other artworks: in *Windwalks* he attaches a DIY sail to his head and documents his journey using a GPS plotter, and in *Postal Works*, he captures a package's meandering voyage through the UK mail system.

Look closely: What can you tell about each tree from the drawing it has created?

BINH DANH

Binh Danh uses leaves as his canvas and sunlight as his drawing medium, creating photographic images with a technique he calls "chlorophyll printing." Picking leaves from his (or his neighbor's) backyard, Danh's photographs—comprised of a leaf and negative pressed between a felt base and a piece of glass—"bake" in the sun for weeks at a time. Danh's process is so bound by chance that he chooses to preserve only one out of every five prints.



Binh Danh, detail of Military Foliage

Can you find evidence of Binh's process by looking at his artwork? What differences can you find between each leaf print?