

# **The Artist Gardener NYC**

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# **Outdoor Art Exhibit**

# Wildflowers

Bianca J Abdi-Boragi, Gabrielle Baker, Aaron Bell, Eli Brown,

Diana Buitrago, Madgalena Dukiewicz, Ronen Gamil, Jamie

Martinez, Alba Navarro Hierro, Reynaldo Pulido, Saint

Martize, Damien A. Vera, Celeste Wilson

June 11th - September 30th, 2023

# **Opening reception: Sunday, June 11th 3-7pm**

# West 132nd Street Community Garden 108-114 W 132nd street, New York, NY 10027

**New York, NY**: "The Artist Gardener NYC", a New York City-based art program, located at 108-114 West 132nd Street Community Garden, is pleased to present the fourth annual outdoor exhibition, **"Wildflowers", c**urated by artist and co-founder of the program, Bruna D'Alessandro.

In the "Wildflowers" exhibition, the artwork is a means of positively connecting with wild nature, in search of a secret, preserved, unexpressed part of ourselves. Wildflowers grow everywhere and are free from any control, unstoppable beauties who always retain their

freedom. The exhibition reflects on the connection between us and the natural environment and how we are part of it, requiring an act of self-liberation on the part of the artists to approach their wild and authentic side of thinking to create works that express their intimate dialogue with nature.

Seeking this connection, the 13 artists on display tell delicate and personal stories, offering their unique and authentic way of seeing, feeling and observing.

The exhibition represents a line of reasoning from artist to artist. A letter sent by the artist curator Bruna D'Alessandro to the participating artists is the starting point from which they created their own visions. The project represents an exchange of reflections, memories, ideas; a conversation between the artists and the habitat of the garden.

#### From the letter:

"From the curator .... from an artist to artists.

When I find myself lying in a field of wildflowers, my mind lets itself get carried away freely by the teeming colors and smells of natural poetry. I observe the sunlight that scintillates the multifaceted splendor and if I look just above it, I see that the flowers move slightly displaced by the light wind and my thoughts move with them for a moment. The perfection and simplicity of these natural beings reassures me. And the infinity of animals and insects moving around them makes me joyful with calm vitality, an enchanting nature that I am allowed to observe. Wildflowers grow everywhere and are free from all control, unstoppable beauties that always preserve their freedom.

This simple memory brings me back to reflecting on a recurring thought I have about the need to free ourselves from modifications and constraints. In today's world, I think it is difficult to seek and rediscover that wild and purely authentic side of us. The uncontrollable aspect of the wild nature of the flowers creates in me a sense of relief that allows me, for a moment, to lose control and regain the ability to listen.

With this curatorial project I would like to discuss the bond between ourselves and the natural environment and how we are part of it. I think of art as a way to connect positively with wilderness, in search of a secret, preserved, unexpressed part of ourselves.

I would like to invite you to create artworks that express your intimate dialogue with nature (the natural world). What is the feeling of you as a wildflower? Let your untamed imagination create your artwork.

Kindly, Bruna "

*La Femme Rétro-Viseur* by **Bianca Abdi-Boragi** features a resin bust of a woman covered in mirrored tile mosaic, with a rear view mirror instead of sunglasses. Through an almost mimetic effect, the figure visually merges with the environment, stimulating a reflection on

the elimination of barriers between a subject and her environment. The work also questions the themes of consolidation, assimilation and what is obscured in the process.

**Gabrielle Baker**'s **paintings** are inspired by metals and minerals. The artist juxtapose earth hues with metallic and/or non-metallic colors, and other mediums to mimic the beauty that exists in nature, expressing appreciation for their ability to facilitate physical healing, to invigorate, to cultivate love, and boost creativity.

**ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE ENTER.**, by **Aaron Bell**, offer an observation platform of cooperative behavior among different forms of nature. Made of thermoplastic masks integrated with already existing twigs, the sculpture foresees a further assimilation with the natural environment and the species of the garden during the three months. The artwork mean to be a sanctuary where any and all 'creatures' are welcome to habitat and rest, deeply believing that nature doesn't segregate but welcomes all to contribute to a shearing environment.

Through their artwork **Another Mother: A Database of All Trans Organisms on Earth, (Field Work #2)**, the artist **Eli Brown** offers an online database and educational tool. Users can search for information on plants, fungi and animals expressing multiple sexes, as well as record their sightings of these organisms on an interactive map. The artwork facilitates and encourages gaining knowledge and understanding of the complex ways in which the natural world has used transsexuality as an evolutionary strategy for hundreds of millions of years.

**Diana Buitrago's landscapes painted en plein-air** express her continuous and intimate dialogue with nature, where her observation merges into the mixed color becoming a single poetic beauty. Through the enchantment of the painted atmosphere, the artist offers an intense and profound representation of the surrounding environment with the intention of capturing moments of truth and moving the empathy of the spectators. In fact, Buitrago's works possess a unique and extraordinary power of emotional involvement.

**Magdalena Dukiewicz's** combines castoff fragments of urban landscape with biological matter. The moss that grows on aluminum debris sinks into crumpled metal parts, torn from their functional environment. The amalgam indicates the point where organic and inorganic ways of being converge into common affects, behaviors, and functions. Through the course of an exhibition, organic matter, mimicking an inorganic matter, slowly overgrows and absorbs the metal substrate.

**Bee Miner** by Ronen Gamil references an Eastern Miner Bee using a copper-wire bending technique inspired by the rich legacy of silversmith work of the artist's Yemeni grandfather and earlier ancestors. Gamil learned about this tiny bee species through his research of pollinators of an NYC native shrub called Serviceberry that he has been growing for years as a gardener. Through the re-appropriation of the technique in the meticulous construction of the bee, Gamil reaffirms his ethnic origins as a Yemeni Israeli Jew, connects to other Arab cultures, and expresses his solidarity with the Palestinian people, opposing their continuous oppression, dispossession, and colonization.

**Honoring the Land**, by **Jamie Martinez**, "pays homage to the deep connection we share with the land and the life-sustaining it provides". Various types of raw clay fruits are stored in the bowl during the exhibition's opening weekend. During the three-month duration of the show, the fruit to eat every first Saturday of the month will be put in the bowl for visitors to enjoy.

*Soma Sound Concert,* played by Alba Navarro Hierro & Reynaldo Pulido, arise from their believe that playing music in nature is a meditation itself, because of the focus on being present, of being here and now. During the concert the musicians will connect the vibrations of the instruments with the sounds of nature, encouraging relaxation and transforming the environment.

The artwork **Ocean Breeze** by **Saint Martize** made out of seashell on a recycled coffee bag is a testament to the harmonious union of earth and water. Its purpose is to instill a sense of tranquility and serenity, reminding viewers of the profound pleasure found in life's simple joys. The artwork serves as a gentle reminder to embrace the beauty of simplicity, urging viewers to appreciate the small wonders that surround us.

*Silent Entity*, by Damien A Vera, focuses on the perceived stillness and sounds that are a part of the natural world. The steel structure coil itself around the foliage to mesh with the environment and we can just see glimpses of it through the brush. The whole piece will not be seen without some exploration, as it is meant to reward the curious and observant. The hollow body, grab the ambient sounds originating in the garden and gently draw them towards the main opening, exploring the sounds present with greater attention and magnification. The artwork draw attention to sounds that are not often noticed offering an auditory exploration of the surrounding.

In her works *Salix, Ogee* and *Ophidia*, Celeste Wilson takes material found in nature and reshapes it into forms that bend, grow and sway with new life. In fact, the pieces are made up of marble scraps that the artist finds from local stone companies, transformed into harmonic imaginary forms which arise from a process of observation of the natural world, drawing cycles, and then settle on an final abstract sculptural form.

## **Program Dates:**

**Opening Reception - Sunday June 11th 3pm - 7pm** 

Visual Art Exhibition - June 11th - Sept 30th

Bianca J Abdi-Boragi, Aaron Bell, Eli Brown, Magdalena Dukiewicz, Ronen Gamil, Jamie Martinez, Saint Martize, Damien A. Vera, Celeste Wilson

Painting Installation by Gabrielle Baker - June 11th only

Plain-Air Painting Demonstration by Diana Buitrago - June 11th only

Soma Sound Concert by Alba Navarro Hierro & Reynaldo Pulido - September 23rd

**Closing Reception - September 23th** 

Garden open hours: Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 12 - 7 pm (except rainy days)

### Featured Artists/Works Info:

#### **Bianca Abdi-Boragi**

*La Femme Rétro-Viseur* 2023 Plastic, mirrored tile mosaic, cement, resin 17 x 17 x 21 in

#### Bio

Bianca Abdi-Boragi is a French-Algerian/ American artist born and raised in Paris, France, who received her BFA from ENSAPC (Paris) and her MFA from Yale School of Art, Sculpture in 2017. Abdi-Boragi has been living in New York since 2010. Recently in residency at Pioneer Works her shows were featured on Hyperallergic, Artnet, and The Brooklyn Rail, among other magazines. Solo exhibitions include the Border Project Space Gallery and CADAF Art Fair, she has exhibited with GHOSTMACHINE, Central Part Tower's Penthouse, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, the Flux Factory, Heaven Gallery Chicago, the Immigrant Artist Biennial, NARS Foundation, The Border Project Space, VCU Arts, NURTUREart Gallery, Chashama Gallery, Field Project Gallery, Galerie Protégé, The Clemente Soto Velez Center NY, throughout the United States and internationally and has screened art films at Anthology Film Archive, UnionDocs, Video Revival, NY, the Whitney Humanity Center, and Loria Center, New Haven, CT. Abdi-Boragi was the recipient of the JUNCTURE Fellowship in Art and International Human Rights from the Yale Law School and was recently in residency at NARS Foundation and previously at MASS MoCA's studios, the Centquatre, Paris, France, Pact Zollverein, Essen, Germany, CalArts, Los Angeles.

Website: <u>biancaboragi.net</u> IG: <u>@biancaabdiboragi</u>

#### **Gabrielle Baker**

Paintings Installation

#### Bio

Gabrielle Baker could no longer ignore the voice inside, encouraging her to return to an old passion. She immersed herself in a half-day still life/abstract art class at Parson's. At first she merely dabbled in art, but over time and with further inspiration, she began to regain her former artistic self. After entering a piece called "Metallurgy 1 – Copper" in an exhibit in Montclair NJ, she sold the work and guickly resumed her practice, making metals the inspiration for her art. Every Saturday as a ten-year-old girl, she took the train from the Bronx to Manhattan to a watercolor class at the Art Students League. Her instructor, Ethel Katz, was welcoming, always giving her a subtle nod and smile. She took her portfolio of paintings to auditions at Music and Art High School in Harlem. The entrance committee took one look at the watercolors and admitted her. Family members with good intentions offered advice, telling her that painting made for a great hobby but not a career. She listened and majored in science at college, intending to go to medical school. In spite of a nagging inner voice asking why she abandoned her art, she did not pick up a brush for over thirty years. Her journey from still life watercolors to painting acrylic abstracts of metals, quartz crystals, and other minerals is filled with many serendipitous events, leading her where she should have been all along.

Websites: <u>www.gabriellebakerart.com</u>/ <u>www.gkbartprints.com</u> IG: <u>@gbakerart</u> FB: Gabrielle Baker Art

#### **Aaron Bell**

ALL ARE WELCOME. PLEASE ENTER.

2023

mixed media; thermoplastic; steel; acrylic paint; tree twigs: zip ties; glue H-18 1/2", L- 15", W-13 1/2"

#### Bio

Aaron is a mix media visual artist. The intention of his art has always been to communicate visually and faithfully the impact of society's behaviors and events that impassion him internally and that compel him externally. Aaron is originally from Indiana and had been a New Yorker for most of his life. He is currently living in Atlanta, Georgia. He has been a successful creative director and being awarded many of the industry's prestigious awards such as The One Show, The Art Directors Club, The CIBA Awards, and several others. Subsequently Aaron succumbed to a medical condition that greatly affected his speaking ability ending his advertising career. A friend suggested that he take an art course at the Art Students League in New York, which he did. That decision to reinvent himself and concentrate on the art of making art has made it possible for him to develop what he now considers his strongest voice as a communicator.

Since becoming an artist Aaron has been awarded several study scholarships at the Art Students League. In 2016 as a result of the installation of his controversial public art, Stand Tall Stand Loud in Riverside Park, NYC he was awarded the "Freedom of Expression" Award,

National Coalition Against Censorship; 2015-2016 Model to Monument Fellowship, Art Students League; 2014-2015 Margo L. H. Hammerschlag Scholarship, Art Students League; 2013-2014 Presidents Merit Scholarship, Art Students League. He has received the Red Dot award on several occasions for works from his series "WMD made in the USA 100+years of Terrorist Lynching: An American Pastime" exhibited at the Phyliss Harriman Mason Gallery, New York City.

#### Eli Brown

Another Mother: A Database of All Trans Organisms on Earth, (Field Work #2) signs, 9" x 9", inkjet prints on laminated paper

#### Bio

Eli Brown is an interdisciplinary artist whose work in queer ecologies spans sculpture, writing, drawing, social practice, and public art. His practice revolves around understanding trans-ness as a lineage, and as an evolutionary phenomenon that is not always human. Their work has been exhibited at the deCordova Museum & Sculpture Park Biennial, Flux Factory, and Creative Time X. Eli's exhibitions and public projects have been reviewed in Sculpture Magazine, CULTURED, Big, Red, and Shiny, WGBH's Open Studio, and Chronicle 5 News. Their writing and work have been published in NiCHE: Network in Canadian History and Environment, Antennae: The Journal of Nature in Visual Culture, the upcoming Artists and The Practice of Agriculture (Routledge), and the long-running, queer, sex-ed comic, Not Your Mother's Meatloaf. Eli received an MFA from SMFA at Tufts in 2018. Since then, they have taught courses at Montserrat College of Art, Maine College of Art and Design, and UMass Lowell.

Websites: <u>theelimachine.net</u> / <u>www.anothermother.co</u> IG: <u>@eli.m.brown</u>

#### Diana Buitrago

Plain-Air Painting

#### Bio

Diana Buitrago (b. 1986) is a highly accomplished portrait and landscape painter from Colombia, living and working in New York City and Jersey City, and teaching at the GCA. Her extensive formal artistic training in the classical atelier method includes the four year program at the Art Students League, Artistic Anatomy coursework at Drexel University's School of Medicine, and the four year Core Program at the Grand Central Atelier. She has studied under artists Michael Grimaldi, Dan Thompson, Jon deMartin, Jacob Collins, and Colleen Barry. Diana's work has been widely recognized for its excellence. She is a threetime Hudson River Fellow, an alumnus of the Château de La Napoule Residency, and has won prizes from the GCA, the ASL, and the Portrait Society of America, Certificate of Merit at Salmagundi Club. She is currently an instructor at the GCA.

Website: <u>www.dianabuitrago.com</u> IG: <u>@dianabuitragoart</u>

#### Magdalena Dukiewicz

Symbionts 2023 metal scraps, moss, dimensions around 3x2x6ft

#### Bio

Magdalena Dukiewicz (Warsaw, Poland) is a visual artist based in New York. Her multidisciplinary and often site-responsive practice is rooted in methodologies of process and material experimentation. In her work, Dukiewicz explores topics of consumerism, environment, identity, and gender. Currently, Dukiewicz is a PhD candidate at the Complutense University in Madrid, where she completed her MFA (2013). Her work has been presented in solo and two-person exhibitions at GHOSTMACHINE Gallery, New York, NY (2023), Ivy Brown Gallery, New York, NY, (2022), Fundación Bacalarte, Warsaw, Poland (2021), The Border Project Space, New York, NY (2020), and Stand4 Gallery, New York, NY (2020). Her work was showcased as a part of the inaugural show at Bio BAT Art Space and Sci Art Center, New York, NY (2019), and during the Berlin Art and Science Week (2018). Dukiewicz has been included in group exhibitions at the SVA Flatiron Gallery, New York, NY (2022), Camden Art Centre, London, UK (2019), Museo Tamayo, Mexico City, Mexico (2017), and the Museum of Jurassic Technology, LA, CA (2016). Dukiewicz has been awarded numerous grants, residencies and scholarships, including the Nessa Cohen Grant for Sculpture, a grant from the Polish Ministry of Culture and Heritage, Carlos Amorales Studio Art Residency and the SVA's Bio Art Residency. In Fall 2023, she will be a resident artist at Pioneer Works in Brooklyn, NY.

Website: <u>magdalenadukiewicz.com</u> IG: <u>@magdalena\_dukiewicz</u>

#### **Ronen Gamil**

*Bee Miner* 2023 copper wire and glass beads 7 x 15-<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> x 24-<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> inches (H W D)

#### Bio

Ronen Gamil (b. 1980 in Brooklyn, NY) is a Brooklyn-based, Yemeni-Israeli artist raised in Israel. He lived and traveled extensively in Italy, Spain, and South America. Gamil's recent works have been colorful, immersive textile, metals, and plant installations engaging with issues of migration, ethnic identity, an housing and gentrification. Gamil had solo exhibitions at FiveMyles and Prospect Park and group shows at Bronx Museum of the Arts, Socrates Sculpture Park, and Summit Public Art, NJ. Trained in art and architecture, Gamil earned a BA in studio art and a Master of Urban Planning from the City College of New York. He was a Bronx Museum AIM Fellow (2022), a Socrates Sculpture Park Emerging Artist Fellow (2018), was selected by Smack Mellon as a Hot Pick (2020), and was a finalist for a permanent public art commission in collaboration with the NYC Departments of Cultural Affairs and Homeless Services (2022). Gamil's first permanent public art work will be an educational collaboration with Congregation Beth Hatikvah in Summit, NJ, starting in fall 2023. His work was featured in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, Public Radio International, BK Reader, and artdaily.com.

Website: <u>ronengamil.com</u> IG: <u>@ronengamil</u>

#### **Jamie Martinez**

Honoring the Land 2023 wooden bowl, non-fired clay fruits, fake moss, candles, and paint on bricks approximately 40" H x 16" W x 16" D

#### Bio

Jamie Martinez (b. Ibagué, Colombia) is an interdisciplinary artist who explores the intersection of history, research, indigenous spirituality, and ancient beliefs. His art includes paintings, sculptures, and installations, that serve as a commentary on colonialism, mysticism, and the exploitation of Central and South American land and workers by large corporations. In his latest series "Mercado", he sheds light on the consequences of greed and the harm it causes to the land and people. Additionally, Jamie uses art as a tool to navigate the unknown journey into the underworld, drawing inspiration from his personal obsession with the afterlife and the preparation required for the soul to reach it. Recently, Jamie experienced a life-altering fire that destroyed everything, yet he believes that the art he created protected him during that moment of darkness.

His work has been featured in major outlets such as Hyperallergic, CNN, New York Magazine, The Observer, New York Magazine, Newsweek, The Daily Beast, Yale University radio WYBCX, NTN24 (TV interview), Good Day New York (TV interview), Fox News (TV interview), Whitehot Magazine, Whitewall Magazine, and more. He has also exhibited at the Queens Musuem, Spring Break Art Show, Petzel Gallery, Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Gallery at the New School, Galerie Richard, Whitebox NY, The Gabarron Foundation, Flowers Gallery, Elga Wimmer PCC, Foley Gallery, Rush Gallery, and many more. Jamie is the

publisher of ArteFuse, a contemporary art platform, and the founder and director of The Border Project Space featured in Hyperallergic's top 15 shows of 2018.

IG: <u>@jamiemartinezstudio</u>

#### Alba Navarro Hierro

#### Soma Sound Concert

#### Bio

Born and raised in Tarragona, Spain. Alba career has had many facets as inter Interdisciplinary artist, music teacher and jewelry designer. She received her dual Bachelor's and Master's Degree violin performance and master's degree in Music as a interdisciplinary Art from the University of Barcelona were she co-created an Interdisciplinary Art Company, which she produced and co-created shows for children and adults selected to be performed in prestigious halls, museums, and education institutions in Spain. She have been teaching for 16 years in different countries and institutions providing numerous experiences that have helped her to become a versatile, progressive, and innovative practitioner. She currently continuing on her work as Music and Art Director at Whether-by Pembridge School expanding the music and art department making creative arts a prominent part of student's school life.

IG: <u>@albanavarrohierro</u>

#### **Reynaldo Pulido**

#### Soma Sound Concert

#### Bio

Born and raised in Puerto Rico. Reynaldo career has had many facets as Multiinstrumentalist, music teacher, music therapist, healer and composer. Who received her dual Bachelor's Degree in Jazz/classical Composition from Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts with a post graduate studies in Psychology from the University Albizu Campos San Juan, Puerto Rico and received his master's degree in Music Therapy from the University of Barcelona where he worked many years to completed a research fellowship and clinical specialization in Music Psychotherapy at the renowned Louis Armstrong Center for Music and Medicine at the Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan. Currently continuing as music therapy working in a medical and mental health setting combining his work as a performer.

IG: <u>@reynaldopulidomusic</u>

#### Saint Martize

*Ocean Breeze* 2023 Seashell on canvas, recycled coffee bag 20.5 X 16.5 Inches

#### Bio

Martize is a versatile visual artist specializing in sculpture, painting, and collage. His artistic expression revolves around the exploration of his queer black identity and his embrace of both his homosexuality and creative instincts. Incorporating elements of pop art, such as vibrant colors, texture, and fashion, Martize pushes boundaries and embraces his fluidity between feminine and masculine energies.

IG: <u>@saintmartize</u>

#### **Damien A Vera**

Silent Entity 2023 Mild Steel 52"x 60" x 26"

#### Bio

Vera is a New York City born artist. He received his Bachelor of Science in 2007 from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and studied under sculptor Barney Hodes. He had been an Instructor at the Art Students' League of New York (2008-17) and currently works for The New School: Parsons. He has shown in multiple venues throughout the east coast, had long-term installations at venues such as Riverside Park South, New York, NY, and Leonia Sculpture Garden, Leonia, NJ, and has a permanent installation in Rye Town Park, Rye, NY (2018). His practice primarily focuses on the use of representative modeling and metal forming techniques to explore his subject matters.

Website: <u>www.damienavera.com</u> IG: <u>@damien\_vera</u>

#### **Celeste Wilson**

Salix 65"H x 14"W x 14"D Marble, brass, rubber 2023

Ogee

14"H x 12"W x 2"D Marble 2023

Ophidia 13"X 18"W x 2"D Marble, glass 2023

Bio

Celeste Wilson received her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design and her MFA at Brooklyn College and currently lives and works in Queens, New York. Her work lies at the intersection of process, material, and deconstruction with a focus on glass. Recent exhibitions include Thank You! With Flowers (Queens, NY), The Waste Land at Nicelle Beauchene (NY, NY), and Playground at BRIC (Brooklyn, NY). She has received numerous fellowships including the Creative Glass Center of America at Wheaton Arts (2013), UrbanGlass (2017), Mass MoCA (2019), and Pilchuck Glass School (2021). Wilson is also an adjunct faculty member most recently teaching at NYU, RISD, and SUNY Suffolk.

Website: <u>www.celeste-wilson.com</u> IG: <u>@celestewilson</u>

## About the curator:

Bruna D'Alessandro is an artist originally from Rome, Italy, based in Brooklyn, NY. Her work focuses on creating metal sculptures using a variety of techniques, such as welding, fabrication, hammer work, metal forming, forging, and brazing. Steel, stainless, aluminum, and brass are her mediums, and metalworking is her creative process. Her crafted sculptures draw inspiration from childhood memories and toys, from her current surroundings, and, often, from the enchanting qualities of the metals themselves. In her pieces, she explores the themes of searching for identity, human relationships, and intimacy.

She holds an MFA from Accademia di Belle Arti di Roma. Her works have been shown internationally in venues such as, most recently, the Center For Metal Arts in PA, the Museum of the Central Institute of Graphic in Rome, Italy, The Border Project Space in Brooklyn, the 132nd Street Community Garden and SLA Art Space in NYC. She was an artist in residence at The Steel Yard and in Franconia Sculpture Park in 2022, and in Salem Art Works in 2019 and 2021. In 2020, she Co-Founded The Artist Gardener NYC, a public art program focused on revitalizing the community through exhibitions, art activities and educational programs in the community gardens of NYC. Her public sculpture *The Acorn* is currently on view at the outdoor museum of Franconia Sculpture Park, MN.

Website: <u>www.brunadalessandro.com</u> IG: <u>@bruna\_dalessandro</u>

# **About The Program:**

"The Artist Gardener NYC"

West 132nd Street Community Garden 108-114 W 132nd Street, New York, NY 10027

**The Artist Gardener (TAG) NYC is a public art program that brings artists and public green spaces together to improve the lives of people and neighborhoods through art.** It started as a sculpture exhibition "Encircle" in 2020, with the purpose of providing a relief and safe escape from quarantine to West Harlem residents.

The exhibition's success highlighted the need for a continuing program to support artists and green spaces; with support from the community and a grant from Partnerships for Parks in 2021, The Artist Gardener (TAG) NYC program was born.

The program is committed to developing and bringing annual events to NYC community gardens such as exhibitions, workshops, performances, and educational activities, in order to promote cultural exchange and sustainability. TAG welcomes passionate people who want to share their knowledge, skills, or projects with the community gardens, and help to sustain and preserve green spaces.

Co-founders: Francine Rogers, Aubrey Jackson, Bruna D'Alessandro, Haksul Lee, Natsuki Takauji, Shantel Rose Miller.