

LIBERAL ARTS ROXBURY

Laurie Lambrecht: The Bark Peelers

July 25-October 13, 2024



My berth that night was between two logs that the bark-peelers had stripped ten or more years before. As they had left the bark there, and as hemlock bark makes excellent fuel, I had more reasons than one to be grateful to them.—John Burroughs, "Pepacton," 1881

LIBERAL ARTS ROXBURY is pleased to present an outdoor installation of photographs on fabric by Laurie Lambrecht, Liberal Arts Roxbury's 2024 Artist in Residence. Located at 1089 West Settlement Road, Roxbury, NY, *The Bark Peelers* is a property-wide exhibition and visitors are invited to

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pick up a map and wander freely. Hours are by appointment.

Laurie Lambrecht has a heightened sensitivity to the patterns, colors, and textures of nature. Her artistic response is an unlikely fusion of fiber and photography, which she uses, variously, to mimic, intensify, and alter natural forms. Trees are of particular interest—their scale, individuality, and ubiquity. Photographing up close the bark of various species of trees, Lambrecht's camera records minute patterns and irregularities in the bark, such as lichen, knots, and scarring. Through the process of printing these photographs on fabric, alterations in the commercial dyes occur, pushing the colors toward shades of lime green, lavender, and cornflower blue. Also, shifts in scale occur, enlarging the bark patterns to an unnatural size, allowing for even closer scrutiny.

Finally, she returns the bark patterns to nature. Wrapping the tree trunks in these altered images, mixing and matching the tree species depicted and the live trees they are grafted onto, a subtle phenomenon of hyper-vision occurs. Discovering the wrapped trees in the natural environment triggers an eerie shift in one's perception of reality—beauty is “convulsed,” as surrealist André Breton theorized in 1928, bringing a heightened sensitivity to details of nature that so often go unnoticed.

The Bark Peelers takes its title from an essay by local naturalist John Burroughs. In his essay “Pepacton” (1881), Burroughs describes a solitary stroll through the forests of the Catskills region, where he trains his senses on the delicate and miraculous life all around him. Just as Burroughs sought to increase readers' sensitivity to the beauty of the Catskills, Lambrecht's work asks visitors to pause and contemplate the lives of trees and other species we share our existence with.

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[Laurie Lambrecht](#), a native of Bridgehampton, NY, is a visual artist working in photography and fiber. Her work is a deft observation of the natural world, merging eye and hand in her lens and fiber-based work. Her first career as a sweater designer heightened her awareness of the tactile qualities and nuances of pattern and color found in nature. Her work especially celebrates trees: their form, subtlety, and enduring presence.

Lambrecht's photographs are in the collections of museums, including the National Gallery of Art, The Center for Creative Photography, and the Parrish Art Museum. She has had numerous solo exhibitions in the US and abroad. Lambrecht has been a participant at artist residencies, including: The American Academy in Rome; The Watermill Center; the Rauschenberg Residency; and KH Messen in Norway.

In the early 1990s, Lambrecht worked as administrative assistant to Roy Lichtenstein, simultaneously photographing the artist and his process. *Roy Lichtenstein in His Studio*, the monograph of her project, was published by Monacelli Press in 2011. She has worked with theatre artist Robert Wilson at the Watermill Center intermittently since 1993. From 2012-2014, Lambrecht photographed a documentary project for the Rauschenberg Foundation in Captiva, Florida.

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The National Gallery of Art, The Morgan Library, and The Art Institute of Chicago are among the venues where Lambrecht has given talks about her work. She has taught bookmaking and weaving workshops at art museums and art centers. Through the organization New Hour, she has taught weaving to incarcerated women. In 2013, she taught students in Medellin, Colombia, in the program Literacy through Photography. In 2019, she presented an outdoor installation of weaving and photographs at the Madoo Garden Conservancy as Road Show artist with the Parrish Art Museum. In the summer of 2021, Lambrecht created site-specific interactive outdoor installations at the Watermill Center. In 2023, she created a site-specific work at the Nassau County Museum of Art.

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