

## JASON MIDDLEBROOK

TimeOut NY

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### “5 Projects”

Wave Hill, through Nov 27  
(see Museums).

For the past two centuries, the sublime beauty of the Hudson River valley has inspired artists. Putting the power of this landscape to the test, curator Jennifer McGregor invited five contemporary artists to respond to the setting of Wave Hill, a cultural center overlooking the Palisades. The resulting exhibition, installed inside the Glyndor House and outside on the surrounding grounds, explores not only landscape but architecture and history.

Adorning the front lawn, Jason Middlebrook’s *Copper Beech Memoirs*, an ornate mosaic sculpture of a stump, commemorates a century-old tree that used to grace the grounds. Moving indoors, Lee Boroson refers to the region’s tradition of grand mansions with *Outer Limit*, a miniature wooden castle with turrets and gabled roofs. Mediating between nature and domestic interior, Suzanne Bocanegra’s *All the Native Plants of New England* is a drawn and painted collection of plants like the botanical specimens growing in the nearby gardens and greenhouses. Orderly arrangements of delicately painted petals abruptly give way to chaotic piles of paper, as if the artist realizes the impossibility of depicting the comprehensive taxonomy her title proposes.

Kurt Lightner’s sprawling installation *Undiscovered/Covered* also brings the outdoors in: Grass made of Mylar overruns sculptural ruins of buildings, alluding to the layers of natural and cultural history in the area.

The passage of time is similarly evoked by Joan Linder’s drawing *Insomnia*. A life-size rendition of one of six floor-to-ceiling windows in the Glyndor House sunroom, where it is installed, the piece depicts a night sky. These five site-specific projects make a persuasive case that even in our high-tech era of virtual worlds, Mother Nature remains a potent muse.  
—Eugenie Tsai

