



For press inquiries, please contact:
Maddy Rosenberg, mrosenberg@centralbookingnyc.com

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Plant Cure

COLLABORATION BETWEEN CENTRAL BOOKING AND THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

September 6 – October 29, 2017

Curator: Maddy Rosenberg

At **CENTRAL BOOKING**

Opening Reception: Wednesday, September 6, 6-8pm

Art & Science Panel, *The Roots of Plant Cures*: Friday, October 13, 6pm
Moderator- Anne Garner, Curator, The New York Academy of Medicine

Display Cases at The New York Academy of Medicine
Plant Cure in Process: CENTRAL BOOKING Artists in Residence
C Bangs, Nancy Campbell, James Martin, Susan Rostow, Mary Ting

Brown Bag Artist's Talk: Monday, September 18, 12-1pm (3rd floor)

New York, NY – CENTRAL BOOKING is pleased to announce *Plant Cure*, a collaborative project with The New York Academy of Medicine, curated by Maddy Rosenberg. Opening on September 6 at 6:00pm and spreading over three of its spaces in the Lower East Side gallery, the exhibition will be on view through October 29. While uptown, display cases at the New York Academy of Medicine document the research, source material, and working methods employed by the Artists in Residence during their six month process of creating their work for *Plant Cure*. Accompanying programming at CENTRAL BOOKING includes an Art & Science Discussion Panel on October 13 at 6:00pm and a Brown Bag Artist's Talk at The New York Academy of Medicine on September 18th at noon. A special catalog has been produced for the exhibition and can be purchased directly at <http://www.magcloud.com/browse/issue/1333163>

A plant may just relieve an itch, heal a sore or more than occasionally hold life and death within their aesthetically pleasing shapes. They may be palliatives to the ills of daily lives or ease us through our passing. To seek out nature's healing properties within the plant world and transform it into the matter of art was the quest of the five selected Artists in Residence at The New York Academy of Medicine - C Bangs, Nancy Campbell, James Martin, Susan Rostow and Mary Ting. They joined the curator to delve deep within the shelves of this research library of extensive medical and science collections, in a quest for hidden knowledge and past interpretations. The medicinal properties of certain plant life is long known and documented, it was for these artists to breathe new life into how we view them.

C Bangs investigates through the archives for recipes of branded potions made illicit, as they gave women control over their own bodies. **Nancy Campbell** enters the realm of the restorative plants from the Far East, as test and texture echo through transparent planes, with **James Martin**, the anatomy of the plant weaves

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around and over human counterparts in amalgam printed layers. The sculptural books of **Susan Rostow** encrusted with mushrooms, embedded within and along the surface, find themselves mirrored and thrust into the world. **Mary Ting** takes a bit of the garden, a dash of civic activism, adds various elements and comes out the other side. **Maddy Rosenberg** assembles pieces of historical texts into a file of medical products not to be found in everyday references.

But the mysteries can be uncovered and transformed by artists through other source materials as well. The delicate watercolors of **Agnes Murray** belie the utilitarian properties of the decorative summer geranium she references. Nature is the backbone of the work of **Cynthia Back** as she focuses her attention on the wild, while reducing it color by color. **Margot Glass** draws ghostlike images of dandelions, the emanating light feeling more like the x-ray of a plant emblazoned into the earth, while **Elizabeth Whiteley** draws the flowers in silver, with line and edges doing the contour defining.

Marisa Benjamim goes beyond the description of plants, she lives off of a diet of her own making, medicine for the body and not just of the soul. **Lee Salomone** walks us down a garden path paved with specimens from another continent, that of his native Australia. **James Walsh** gives us a botanist's viewpoint of cataloging and documenting as he excavates through implanted information. **Geraldine Ondrizek**, too, uses the plant as a medium with embedded dandelions echoed by drawn ones.

Utilizing her own plant-derived inks, **Kate Temple** explores the realm of nature's healing secrets through the subtleties of abstraction. The healer of **Sarah Stengle** takes a more human form as she gathers the herbs to nurse us by. For **Donna Cleary**, symbolic use is manifested in sculptural objects that bear more than cosmetic relief. **Gaby Berglund-Cardenas** uncovers the medicinal mysteries of a particular Chinese tea, contained in a box; it takes **Tessa Grundon** to build her own medicine cabinet, of curatives that beckon us to pick and prune.

Through various media and materiality, these artists come to portray more than the earthly delights we find in the plant world. They reveal secrets and restorative solutions within the leaves and petals, vines and roots, that have survived accusations through the ages of being both magical and miraculous -and proven to be scientific at the very least.

Plant Cure is made possible in part with public funds from *Creative Engagement / Creative Learning*, supported by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and administered by Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. LMCC.net



CENTRAL BOOKING is a multi-disciplinary international art space, founded and run by artist/curator **Maddy Rosenberg**, dedicated to the expanse of the book as art in dialog with the convergence of art & science.

CENTRAL BOOKING consists of:

- **Artist's Book Gallery (ABG)** featuring the work of over 160 established and emerging artists worldwide.
- **Haber Space**, specializing in Art and Science thematic group exhibitions.
- **the Library**, special exhibitions of contemporary art.
- **OFFLINE Event Space**, the Place for Multi-disciplinary Interaction with a full program of interdisciplinary events and collaborations.

CENTRAL BOOKING

21 Ludlow Street

New York, NY 10002 (LES)

www.centralbookingnyc.com

347-731-6559

info@centralbookingnyc.com

Hours: Thursday-Sunday, 12-6 PM

Subway: F to East Broadway, B/D to Grand Street

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