



NATIONAL MUSEUM
of WOMEN in the ARTS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 14, 2015

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***The National Museum of Women in the Arts announces artists featured in
biennial exhibition series Women to Watch***

Selected artists actively redefine the relationship of women, nature and art

WASHINGTON—The National Museum of Women in the Arts ([NMWA](http://www.nmwa.org)) is pleased to announce the artists selected for the upcoming exhibition [*Organic Matters—Women to Watch 2015*](#), on view June 5–Sept. 13, 2015. NMWA’s biennial exhibition series [*Women to Watch*](#) features up-and-coming or underrepresented artists from the states and countries in which the museum has outreach committees. The committees consulted with contemporary art curators in their respective regions to create shortlists of artists who use imagery and materials from the natural world—this year’s theme. NMWA’s curatorial team then selected the artists and their works for inclusion in the spring exhibition.



Organic Matters—Women to Watch 2015 Nominating Committees, Selected Artists and Curators:

Arkansas

Selected Artist: Dawn Holder

Curator: Courtney Taylor, Arts and Science Center for Southeast Arkansas

California (Southern)

Selected Artist: Jennifer Celio

Curator: Corrina Peipon, Hammer Museum

Chile

Selected Artist: Andrea Lira

Curator: Soledad García Saavedra, independent curator

France

Selected Artist: Françoise Pérovitch

Curator: Julia Garimorth, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

Georgia

Selected Artist: Jiha Moon

Curator: Michael Rooks, High Museum of Art

Italy

Selected Artist: Goldschmied & Chiari

Curator: Iolanda Ratti, Museo del Novecento

Greater Kansas City Area

Selected Artist: Lara Shipley

Curator: Catherine Futter, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

Massachusetts

Selected Artist: Rebecca Hutchinson

Curator: Jen Mergel, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

New Mexico

Selected Artist: Mary Tsiongas

Curator: Lisa Tamiris Becker, UNM Museum of Art

Greater New York Region

Selected Artist: Rachel Sussman

Curators: Christiane Paul, Whitney Museum of Art; Dana Miller, Whitney Museum of Art

Ohio

Selected Artist: Mimi Kato

Curators: Reto Thuring, Cleveland Museum of Art; Rose Bouthillier, MOCA Cleveland

Texas

Selected Artist: Ysabel LeMay

Curator: Virginia Treanor, National Museum of Women in the Arts

United Kingdom

Selected Artist: Polly Morgan

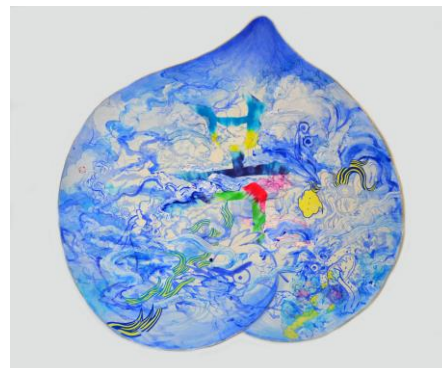
Curator: Lisa Le Feuvre, Henry Moore Institute

The artwork selected in the fourth installment of NMWA's *Women to Watch* exhibition series recontextualizes images of plants and animals and redefines the relationships between women, nature and art. Historically, women artists were encouraged by society to take the natural world as their subject. Rather than narrative art, which was thought to require invention and imagination beyond women's capabilities, subjects such as botanical drawings, still-life paintings and images of animals seemed to require merely the power of observation. Turning this archaic paradigm upside-down, the contemporary artists highlighted in *Organic Matters* actively investigate the natural world—to fanciful and sometimes

frightful effect. Collectively, their work addresses modern society's complex relationship with the environment, ranging from concern for its future to fear of its power. Through a diverse array of mediums, including photography, drawing, sculpture and video, these artists depict fragile ecosystems, otherworldly landscapes and creatures both real and imagined.

[Women to Watch](#) is an exhibition series held every two to three years, developed in conjunction with the museum's national and international outreach committees. NMWA currently has 18 outreach committees with more than 2,000 dedicated members throughout the United States and around the world and continues to expand its network. The museum's committees play a critical role in bringing NMWA's mission to regional audiences. The committees work with local museum directors and curators,

education experts and business leaders to capitalize on their region's artistic, financial, and educational strengths and resources in order to develop meaningful programming and build a bridge between their communities and the museum.



National Museum of Women in the Arts

Founded in 1981 and opened in 1987, NMWA is the only museum solely dedicated to celebrating the achievements of women in the visual, performing and literary arts. The museum's collection features 4,500 works from the 16th century to the present created by more than 1,000 artists, including Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, Alma Thomas, Lee Krasner, Louise Bourgeois, Chakaia Booker and Nan Goldin, along with special collections of 18th-century silver tableware and botanical prints. NMWA is located at 1250 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., in a landmark building near the White House. It is open Monday–Saturday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m., and Sunday, noon–5 p.m. For information, call 202-783-5000 or visit nmwa.org. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youths 18 and under. Free Community Days take place on the first Sunday of each month. For more information about NMWA, visit nmwa.org, [Broad Strokes Blog](#), [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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Image credit lines:

Polly Morgan, *Systemic Inflammation*, 2010; Taxidermy and steel, 51 1/8 x 44 1/2 x 44 1/2 in.; Photography by Tessa Angus

Jiha Moon, *Peach Mask I*, 2013; Ink and acrylic on Hanji paper, 38 x 38 1/2 in.; Courtesy of the artist