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The Art Gallery at the Rockefeller Park Preserve presents “MAPPING SYMMETRIES”, a series of colorful woodcut prints inspired by artist Jeff White, Preparator of Drawings and Prints at MOMA.

Jeff White sponsored 17 excursions into the 2000+ acres of the Preserve’s carriage paths where strangers were paired to hike, lunch, and participate by carving lines on variously sized plywood blocks that White would further develop. Forty- two participants were invited, seventeen being visual artists and the others, of various vocations.

The carvings were poised to enter one side of the block and exit another. White, later rolled translucent ink onto their like-sized blocks and layered impressions of their lines onto handmade Kozo paper. He continued the creative process by including techniques, colors and the juxtaposition of other prints from the series.

“All But Blue” (shown above), is a wood cut screen printed of a Japanese Tree Peony. It was inspired by the garden outside of the Preserve Art Gallery that features Japanese Tree Peonies gifted by the people of the Shimane Prefecture, Yatsuka Town, Japan in remembrance of the victims of September 11th. Each color woodcut has a like-sized screen print nearby with text to illuminate details of that excursion.

Since 2012, Jeff White has been facilitating annual group projects as the entity Totemic17, featuring woodcut prints in 17 dynamic sizes. Each project presents respected artists responding to a theme and includes an engaging public component such as a live storytelling event or a workshop series composing prints.

The exhibition is curated by Audrey Leeds and will be open for viewing at the Preserve’s Art Gallery, September 20 – October 18, 2020. Custom framing services provided by Renaissance Arts, Orangeburg, NY. The artworks are available for purchase, proceeds directly benefit the Preserve.

The art gallery is open daily 9:00AM-4:30PM. Please follow all social distancing guidelines when visiting.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation oversees more than 250 individual parks, historic sites, recreational trails and boat launches, which were visited by a record 77 million people in 2019. A recent university study found that spending by State Parks and its visitors supports $5 billion in output and sales, 54,000 private-sector jobs and more than $2.8 billion in additional state GDP. For more information on any of these recreation areas, call 518-474-0456 or visit parks.ny.gov, connect on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. The free New York State Parks Explorer mobile app is available for iOS and Android devices. To download, visit: Google Play Store, NY State Parks Explorer App or Apple Store, NY State Parks Explorer App.

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