



Dense, Hot and Cool Harmonies

Featuring **Peter Gerakaris**

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EXCERPTS FROM “CALL & RESPONSE” PRE-VIDEO INTERVIEW (DENSE, HOT & COOL HARMONIES) WITH WAVE HILL CURATOR GABRIEL DE GUZMAN (7/2017)

In what way did your Sunroom Project impact the development of your practice? As someone who loves to garden and make art, Wave Hill is like a match made in heaven.

It set the tone for virtually everything I've done since. The physical space and curatorial program manage to nurture AND challenge you all at once.

Although my Sunroom project seems a bit raw in hindsight, the kernels for everything are there: Nature into Culture; an obsession with pollinators; being a color-junkie; botanicals; responding to a site through installation; not to mention, engaging a public audience. Wave Hill's like a creative laboratory where art and landscape converge.

Please speak to your process of engaging with Wave Hill's site. What elements of the grounds were most compelling/were there challenges you faced in creating site –specific work? I feel art is often divorced from the natural world. That seems perilous these days with so many environmental issues at stake. Wave Hill provides an important platform for artists who engage this special Nature-Culture niche.

I remember being excited by how the Sunroom's windows connect interior and exterior space. I wanted my work to become a luminous membrane – and interstitial zone – that literally fused indoor and outdoor space, while paying homage to both.

What prompted your new work for *Call & Response*? How does it feel to be back in Glyndor Gallery after ten years? While the new origami sculptures are small, self-contained artworks, they're also maquettes for large-scale pavilions. I'd also like them to be spaces where audiences can experience performances. Ultimately I'd like them to become *placemakers* – sites that create both a physical and psychic sense of place.

As stage-sets for music, they also get at the notion of call & response – improvisation lies at the heart of jazz. As artists, we are constantly calling and responding with our audience through a site.

How was exhibiting in the Sunroom Space different from other, more traditional gallery spaces? The site literally and figuratively expands the context for art. Integrating art within such natural surroundings – where there's also a public audience component – adds up to a whole that's greater than the sum of its parts.