



WAVE HILL SUNROOM PROJECT SPACE

May 23–July 6, 2014

KRISTYNA AND MAREK MILDE

Hills and Valleys of the Sofa Wilderness

KRISTYNA AND MAREK MILDE

Born in Prague, Czech Republic
Live in Brooklyn, NY

*Hills and Valleys of the Sofa
Wilderness, 2014*

Aluminum, insulation material, soil,
moss, grass, ferns and stones
24 1/2" x 64" x 32" and 24 1/2" x 32" x 32"
Courtesy of the artists

Kristyna and Marek Milde's art examines the effects of architecture, design and interior space on how we see and relate to the outside world. In their practice, the Mildes create objects, situations and events that use both organic and artificially constructed elements to confront cultural views and fantasies about nature. Their projects often take the form of do-it-yourself home improvements, revisiting the role of furnishing and decorating. They believe that the interior-based culture prevalent today creates boundaries between the man-made and organic realms, producing a removed perspective of the world. To counteract this disconnect, the artists explore methods for transforming built spaces in ways that reconnect people to the larger environmental contexts of culture, geography and nature. Their work creates a shift when plant material from outdoors is placed inside the gallery space.

At Wave Hill, the Mildes create a lounge where visitors can experience the natural landscape from the comfort of the domestic interior. Their Sunroom Project, *Hills and Valleys of the Sofa Wilderness*, transfers a piece of woodland floor into containers that are shaped like a couch and a chair and filled with transplanted ferns, moss, grasses and stones from Manitoga in Garrison, NY. Visitors are encouraged to sit down, as they would in the forest, and experience the forms, texture, smell and feeling of the organic materials. While deconstructing the traditional use of plant motifs in interior design, *Hills and Valleys* amplifies the contrast between outside and inside, provoking questions about how to engage with the natural world in the isolation of urban dwellings.

Kristyna and Marek Milde each received an MFA from Queens College, City University of New York. They have exhibited widely in the United States and Europe, including shows at the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) Studio in New York, NY; NURTURE art, Brooklyn, NY; Anna Wallace Gallery, New York, NY; Space Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA; and DOX Center for Contemporary Art, Futura and Karlin Studios, all in Prague, Czech Republic. Their work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Brooklyn Rail* and *Flash Art*, among other publications. They both work at the Czech Center, New York, where they curate exhibitions and organize public programs. [www.mildeart.com]

Kristyna and Marek Milde thank MANITOGA / The Russell Wright Design Center for their support of *Hills and Valleys of the Sofa Wilderness*.

Organized by Curator of Visual Arts Gabriel de Guzman, the Sunroom Project Space provides an opportunity for New York-area emerging artists to develop a special project or site-specific work to exhibit in a solo show. The artists participating in the 2014 season are, consecutively, **Brandon Neubauer, Kristyna and Marek Milde, Reade Bryan, Lauren Carly Shaw, Tammy Nguyen, Alexandra Phillips and Hilary Lorenz.**

MEET THE ARTISTS: **June 22, 1:30pm**

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