

Germinate

Five accomplished artists have taken inspiration from Gaining Ground to create an exciting exhibition that reflects its mission, beauty, and bounty. Gaining Ground, a non-profit organic farm in Concord, Massachusetts, grows vegetables and fruit with the help of hundreds of community volunteers and donates all of this fresh food to meal programs and food pantries at hunger relief agencies in the Greater Boston area.

Each artist brings their own unique approach to Gaining Ground.

Monika Andersson teaches photography at the Groton School. She has been a fine arts photographer since the mid 1980's. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in NYC."

"My work for this show was inspired by Gaining Ground's selfless quest to help feed the impoverished and the hungry. In order to anchor the beauty of the produce that is grown, I added Latin phrases to the images, which echo the motivation behind this great organization's work. Using old book pages as a background speaks to their tradition of philanthropy and compassion, motivations which are the hallmark of the best of charitable organizations."

Liz Awalt is an artist who lives and works in Concord, Ma. and serves on the board of Gaining Ground. Liz has painted at the farm in different seasons for many years and is drawn to the variety of unusual heirloom vegetables, gourds, and flowers that the farmers plant in surprising and creative groupings. In her recent work, Liz has focused on micro worlds within the natural world of gardens, swamps, forests, and tide pools. Environmental change and damage can be observed in these micro environments and the expressive approach Liz brings to her work often suggests a world in disarray.

Liz shows her work with Clark Gallery in Lincoln, Ma. and Caldbeck Gallery in Rockland, Me. She is in the permanent collection of the Decordova Museum, Danforth Museum, Rose Art Museum, and many additional private and corporate collections.

Jodi Colella is a sculptor who works with a broad range of materials, innovation and social engagement to create sculptures in which design, science and tradition meet. Her biomorphic forms combined with her transformative use of material express the transition and rebirth that can be found in unlikely places.

She received a BA from Boston University and studied at Massachusetts College of Art + Design, and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She teaches at The Eliot School in Jamaica Plain, Fruitlands Museum in Harvard, Society for Contemporary Craft in Pittsburgh and many private venues.

Ilana Manolson is a painter, printmaker, naturalist, and long-time Concord resident often inspired by details in the shifting local landscape. Her work is in the collections of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, The Danforth Museum, The De Cordova Museum, and The Boston Public Library, among others. Her work focuses on the small disturbances of nature on the boundary between order and disorder and on how these transient moments tell stories about how we see. Manolson's oil paintings of Gaining Ground celebrate the interplay of light, plants, earth, and water in the delicate balance of life at the farm. She is very committed to the mission.

Kathleen Volp is a mixed media artist who loves exploring any and all materials as they suit her mood and concepts. (Currently it is all things faux). While her still-lives are not representational they do reflect the joyful bounty of the gardens and reference the marvelous geometry and color of the Old Manse historical garden in all its Fall glory: fading greens, oranges, neon purples, blues and magentas.

Volp's work has been widely exhibited. Most recently her work has been the subject of a solo exhibition at the Griffin Museum of Photography and can be seen in the current exhibition *Still Life Lives* at the Fitchburg Art Museum.