

Single Species Translations

PERLMAN
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MUSEUMSeptember 20 –
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Exhibition**[Jessica Rath](#)[Laura Cooper](#)[Events](#)

About the Exhibition

Jessica Rath (*take me to the apple breeder*) finds diverse bodies not unlike our own within apple tree architecture and little known blushing fruit. Bodies and skins are explored as standing figures, as sublime surfaces, and as tastes remembered. The work becomes a time capsule of certain moments encapsulating centuries of grafting. The apple/tree is both real and mythical, scientific specimen and folk-tale.

For artist/forager Laura Cooper (*Opuntia*), decay reveals the lace-like plant architecture. Vegetal skeletons become landscapes, replete with shapes like rivers or the human circulatory system. One form meanders slowly until it becomes something else; it splits, and replicates. The work is both transparent and solid. It becomes a ghost, a space, the opposite of what it was. The "Prickly Pear" (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) is no longer.

Both Jessica Rath and Laura Cooper distill form through disassociation—the close-up, the wide angle, the portrait backdrop are all here, as well as artful articulations of laborious making. These works gesture toward the infinite possibilities emanating from one point, from a single species.



Jessica Rath

Jessica Rath creates ceramic sculptures of apple varieties and photographic portraits of cloned hybrid apple trees, inviting meditation on notions of beauty within cultivated, domestic, and wild landscapes.



Laura Cooper

Laura Cooper presents transformed versions of the lace-like skeletal remains of the Opuntia cactus. The work is both transparent and solid; a ghost, a space, the opposite of what it was.

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Laura Cooper

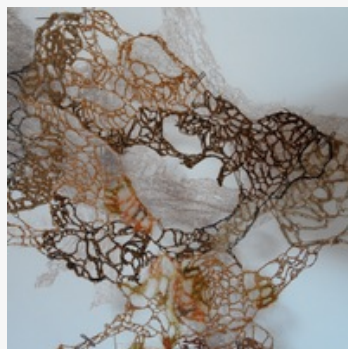
Laura Cooper is an artist and landscape designer based in Los Angeles. With a BA from University of California at San Diego, and a Master of Fine Arts from Cal Arts, Cooper is currently associate professor at the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Cooper is inspired by plants in her own garden; her art work and design projects bring together observation and imagination in multiple forms.

Laura Cooper has exhibited in Los Angeles, New York, and Hawaii, with recent shows at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and the Norton Museum of Art in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Dwell magazine featured Cooper's award-winning domestic garden design in the July/August 2012 issue. She is currently collaborating with several architecture firms on integrated landscape/architecture projects.



Laura Cooper



Opuntia

Laura Cooper uses tiny brushes, ultra-fine yarn with a crochet hook, and bits and pieces of the actual Opuntia cactus, to open up poetic and abstract visual associations.

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Opuntia

The *Opuntia* series comes from Cooper's extended observation of the skeletal remains of *Opuntia ficus-indica*. Also known as the Prickly Pear, this plant's structure mimics other organic forms, be they neural pathways in the brain, rivers and their tributaries, or coral reefs. For this work, the artist uses tiny brushes, ultra-fine yarn with crochet hook, and bits and pieces of the actual plant, to open up poetic and abstract visual associations.

**Laura Cooper***Opuntia Two and Three* (detail), 2003-2013

Chinese watercolor on paper, 7 x 18 feet

silk, stainless steel and wool on nylon, 9 x 18.5 feet



Laura Cooper

Opuntia Two and Three (detail), 2003-2013

Chinese watercolor on paper, 7 x 18 feet

silk, stainless steel and wool on nylon, 9 x 18.5 feet



Laura Cooper

Opuntia Reconfigured, 2004

Dried Opuntia

15 x 24 x 15 inches



Laura Cooper

Opuntia Reconfigured (detail, interior view), 2004

Dried Opuntia

15 x 24 x 15 inches

Location

Weitz Center for Creativity
320 Third Street
Northfield, MN 55057

[Map & Directions](#)

Telephone

507-222-4469 Museum
507-222-4342 Director
507-222-7176 FAX

[Staff Directory](#)

[Visitor Info](#)

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Museum Hours

Mon-Wed: 11 am to 6 pm

Thu-Fri: 11 am to 9 pm

Sat-Sun: noon to 4 pm

Closed during College
winter, spring, and
summer breaks ([see
calendar](#)).

Admission

Free and open to the
public. Facility is
handicapped accessible.

