

Fritz Haeg Studio

DANCING BOARDWALK: FOLLOW THE LEADER

ASSEMBLE A GROUP OF FRIENDS OR STRANGERS, GET UP ON THE BOARDWALK AND START TO MOVE IN THE SAME DIRECTION, FOLLOWING THE EXACT MOVEMENTS, STEPS AND GESTURES OF THE PERSON IN FRONT OF YOU AS CLOSELY AS POSSIBLE AND AFTER A WHILE YOU MIGHT ASK YOURSELF, WHO IS LEADING AND WHO IS FOLLOWING?

look, look again.

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum

258 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877
Tel 203.438.4519, Fax 203.438.0198, aldrichart.org

The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum advances creative thinking by connecting today's artists with individuals and communities in unexpected and stimulating ways.

Board of Trustees

Mark L. Goldstein, Chairman; A. Peter Sallick, Vice-Chairman; John Tremaine, Treasurer/Secretary; Annadurai Amirthalingam; Richard Anderson; William Burback; Timothy Childs; Eric G. Dienerbach; Chris Doyle; Linda M. Dugan; Georganne Aldrich Heller, Honorary Trustee; Meagan Julian; Ruby Lerner; Neil Marcus; Kathleen O'Grady; Donald Opatrny; Gregory Peterson; Peter Robbins; Martin Sosnoff, Trustee Emeritus.

Larry Aldrich (1906 - 2001), Founder

The Aldrich would like to acknowledge the generous support of Joseph Keller and Lisa Svendsen from The Garden of Ideas for *Edible Estate #9*



Plan view of Something for Everyone project at The Aldrich, 2010

Fritz Haeg: *Something for Everyone*
June 27, 2010, to January 2, 2011
The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum



ANIMAL ESTATES: FLYING SQUIRREL

SEE ON THE LAYOUT FOR THE NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRRELS (*GLAUCOMYS SABRINUS*), NATIVE TO THIS REGION WHO HAVE MOVED INTO THE SERIES OF ANIMAL ESTATES LOCATED ON POSTS BEHIND THE MUSEUM IN THE LOCATION OF THEIR PREVIOUS HOME, A MASSIVE OLD TREE RECENTLY REMOVED AFTER A LOATH ILLNESS. (ANIMALESTATES.ORG)

"Americans have a deeply ingrained habit of seeing nature and culture as irreconcilably opposed; we automatically assume that whenever one gains, the other must lose."

"I find, in the garden, some grounds for hope."

Michael Pollan

Fritz Haeg challenges conventional definitions of nature and culture through his art practice. Trained as an architect, he engages today's issues of the human condition by focusing on the ways people relate to each other through their physical environment, and how they relate to plants and animals. For him, the way humans respond to the current state of the world—including politics, climate, and economics—can be symbolically condensed in one iconic American space: the front lawn.

Haeg has become nationally known for transforming several front lawns throughout America into edible estates, documented in *Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn*, now in its second edition. His projects are gaining more acclaim with the increase in generalized concerns about the precariousness of the environment and the toxicity of our food. These two concerns are not separate from one another, since they both point to the fact that our natural resources, besides not being infinite, are interdependent. In our current digitized world and consumer-alienated urban lives, we tend to forget that we are part of nature and that any deterioration of the natural environment, including plants and animals, affects us all. We have culturally developed into independent beings who need to be reminded that we are, as Haeg says, interdependent. "Sharing resources—water, air, streets, neighborhoods, cities, countries, and a planet—all of our destinies are more intertwined than ever." "The front lawn does not share with anything or anyone. For Haeg, it represents only wasted potential" and addressing that potential is a clear-cut, modest act that could have a meaningful effect on global change.

The edible estate he will create on the front lawn of The Aldrich Museum, to be tended by the Museum staff, is one of a series of projects that comprise the exhibition titled *Something for Everyone*. The edible estate is indeed a provocation and may not sit well with our some of our neighbors, who work hard at beautifying their front lawns and leave their edible gardens out of sight, at the back of their properties. However, the ultimate goal of Haeg's projects is to "make our land a public model for the world in which we would like to live." The edible estate activates the front lawn as a social space, where the tenants of the garden not only interact with the passersby, they also create new relationships with their environment and the plants and animals with whom they now have to share their garden.

Michael Pollan argues that today the idea of a garden should be a place, both real and metaphorical, where nature and culture can be wedded in a way that can benefit both. The edible garden can symbolize that hybrid unit that brings together nature and culture in one plot of ground.

Haeg's *Something for Everyone* thinks of the creatures with whom we fail to share our land as "clients." The exhibition incorporates projects that facilitate the reassessment of our relationship with plants, such as the *Edible Estate #9*, and with animals through the *Animal Estates* project. The latter consists of a series of specifically designed homes for the flying squirrels that lost their habitat when the Museum's large ash tree died and was recently removed from the Sculpture Garden.

The exhibition also provides for the people, reminding us that we are networked beings. Through the *Sundown Salon*, consisting of a local resident/family who have relocated their living room furniture to The Aldrich's atrium in exchange for organizing and hosting a series of salon gatherings at their home; the *Sundown Schoolhouse*, where a series of intimate workshops and classes will take place in a geodesic tent on the Museum's front lawn; and the *Dancing Boardwalk*, which facilitates the exploration of movement, direction and gestures on a low wood platform installed in the rear Sculpture Garden, Haeg is creating simple structures that encourage meaningful human activity and social exchanges.

All these projects are integrated into the existing landscape and architecture of the Museum with very simple and inexpensive materials, mainly wood. However, the human, animal, and plant activity around them is highly complex. For Haeg, taken together, these projects are about the possibilities for repurposing the places, spaces, cities, neighborhoods, and homes that we have inherited. They provide strategies to alter the way we live, providing possibilities for any taste, need or desire. These projects are meant as a model that informs our vision for a more sustainable, interconnected and grounded future, a model that anyone can implement at home with modest means—starting simply in their own front garden.

Mónica Ramírez-Montagut, curator

- 1 Michael Pollan, *Second Nature, A Gardener's Education* (Grove Press: New York, 1991), pp. 5-4.
- 2 Fritz Haeg, *Edible Estates: Attack on the Front Lawn* (Metropolis Books: New York, 2008).
- 3 Haeg, p. 10.
- 4 Lawns, which cover thirty million acres of land, are the largest agricultural sector in the U.S. Haeg, p. 118.

Calendar

For updated calendar go to Aldrich Web site Events page or frizhaeg.com/studio/projects/aldrich.html

Ask Me! Tour

Every Tuesday and Sunday for the duration of the exhibition; 2 to 4 pm

Sundown Schoolhouse Workshops in the Geodesic Dome on the Front Lawn

Every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday for the duration of the exhibition; 12:30 to 2 pm

Play in the Dirt: Garden Activities for Children

Every Tuesday and Thursday, from June 29 to August 19; 11 am to 1 pm

First Thursdays: Cocktails & FREE Outdoor Movie!

Thursday, July 1; 7:30 to 10 pm

Earth to Canvas: Botanical Drawing Workshop

(Professional Development Workshop for Teachers)
Friday, July 9; 9 am to 12 noon and 1 to 4 pm

Outdoor Yoga on the Dancing Boardwalk (weather permitting)

Every Saturday, from July 10 to September 4; 10:30 to 11:30 am

NY Botanical Garden Tour with Horticulturist Todd Forrest*

Tuesday, July 27; 3:30 to 5 pm

Ridgefield Summer Dance Intensive with James Robey and Local High School Students

Monday through Friday, August 2 to 6, and August 9 to 13

Aldrich Insiders! Wave Hill Garden: Hudson River Sunset Tour *

Wednesday, August 4; 7 pm

Aldrich Insiders! The High Line Park: Curator-Led Twilight Tour *

Tuesday, August 10; 7 pm

The Garden of Ideas Tour: Explore a Local Organic Farm

Sunday, August 15; 11 am to 12:30 pm (Free, RSVP)

Aldrich Insiders! Stone Barns Center: Private Farm Tour *

Wednesday, August 25; 11 am to 1:30 pm

Opening of Sundown Salon: Ridgefield, CT, Living Room Lobby Installation

Sunday, September 5

The Hickories Tour: Explore a Local Organic Farm

Sunday, September 12; 11 am to 12:30 pm (Free, RSVP)

*FOR MEMBERS ONLY (RSVP required)

sundown salon

SUNDOWN SALON: RIDGEFIELD, CT

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME IN A RIDGEFIELD FAMILY'S LIVING ROOM, NOW RELOCATED TO THE LOBBY OF THE MUSEUM, WHILE THEIR VACATED LIVING SPACE, NOW FURNISHED WITH A SIMPLE LANDSCAPE OF FLOOR CUSHIONS, BECOMES THE SITE FOR A SERIES OF SALON GATHERINGS HOSTED BY THE FAMILY. (SUNDOWNSALON.ORG)



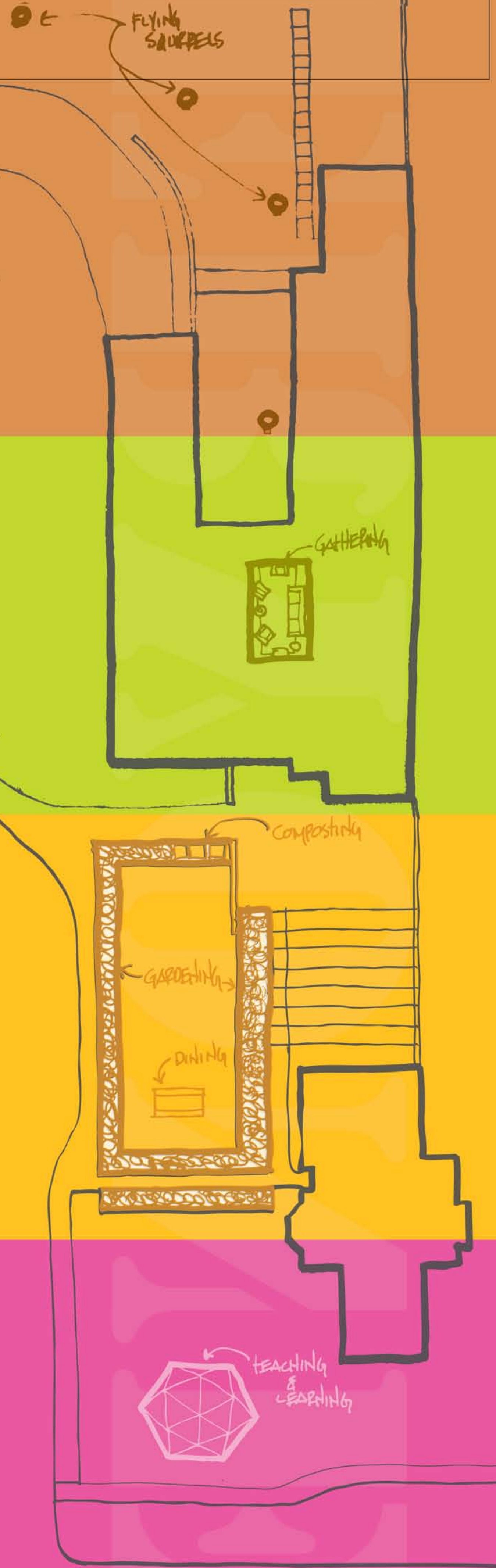
EDIBLE ESTATE #9: ALDRICH STAFF GARDENS & COMPOST

WATCH, SMELL, FEEL, AND EVEN TASTE AS THE ALDRICH MUSEUM STAFF GROWS THEIR OWN FOOD IN THEIR NEW EDIBLE ESTATE GARDEN NOURISHED BY THE COMPOST BEING MADE AT THE MUSEUM'S FRONT DOOR FROM THEIR VERY OWN KITCHEN SCRAPS, COFFEE GROUNDS AND YARD CLIPPINGS. (EDIBLEESTATES.ORG)



SUNDOWN SCHOOLHOUSE: THE ALDRICH WORKSHOPS

DO YOU HAVE A SKILL OR INTEREST THAT YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHERS? OR PERHAPS SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT? VISIT THE GEODESIC TENT AT THE MUSEUM'S FRONT LAWN, FRIDAYS TO SUNDAYS, NOON - 1:30PM (WHEN SCHEDULED) FOR A SERIES OF CASUAL CLASSES, WORKSHOPS, AND SEMINARS LEAD BY LOCALS. (SUNDOWNSCHOOLHOUSE.ORG)



AG

FEI

FI

MA

SO

R

FO

MI

SI

RI

NO

RI

VE

RE