P A C E

Pace Verso Announces Details of Maya Lin's First-Ever Generative Art Project, Featuring Unique Physical Prints and Paired Digital Works

Titled Ghost Forest Seedlings, the new project draws on Lin's acclaimed 2021 installation Ghost Forest, presented at Madison Square Park in New York

Centering on organic growth patterns in a living, subterranean network of tree roots, each Ghost Forest Seedlings artwork—accessibly priced at $1,000—includes a unique physical print, an NFT, and a video timelapse

Through Ghost Forest Seedlings, Lin will facilitate a donation to an environmental conservancy organization, which she will select before the project's launch

The project, produced by Pace Verso in collaboration with E.A.T_WORKS, will be released on September 18 to coincide with Climate Week NYC

A selection of Ghost Forest Seedlings prints will be on view at Pace's 540 West 25ᵗʰ Street gallery in New York from September 19 to 30 as part of the official Climate Week NYC program
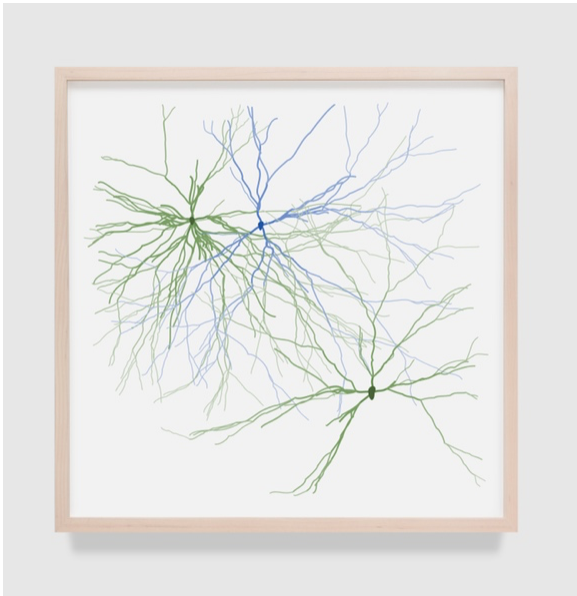
Maya Lin, Ghost Forest Seedlings, one of 500 unique artworks, 2023 © Maya Lin, courtesy Pace Verso and E.A.T_WORKS

Pace Verso, the hub for integrated Web3 projects at Pace Gallery, is pleased to announce details of Maya Lin's first-ever generative art project, Ghost Forest Seedlings. An extension of the artist's acclaimed 2021 *Ghost Forest* installation, this new project is produced by Pace Verso in collaboration with the experimental Web3 art studio E.A.T_WORKS and technical development partners at NearForm, who worked with Lin to develop an algorithm that reflects her artistic sensibility. Ghost Forest Seedlings will be released on September 18, coinciding with Climate Week NYC, and be available for purchase at verso.pacegallery.com.

Ghost Forest Seedlings artworks depict a seed or group of seeds that grows into an intricate root pattern, or seedling, over a predetermined amount of time. Each of the 500 unique works from the project will include three components: a signed print of the final root system; a generative NFT that shows the seedling's evolution in real-time; and a video timelapse tracing the seedling's complete growth pattern. Each physical artwork will be printed on Hahnemühle Bamboo paper by Brooklyn Editions, and they will be 23" by 23" in size, signed and unframed.

A selection of prints from Lin's Ghost Forest Seedlings project will be on view at Pace's 540 West 25th Street gallery as part of the official Climate Week NYC program from September 19 through 30. Varying traits in Ghost Forest Seedlings include the number of seeds in each work; the colors of each seed and root; the number of roots that grow; and the duration of the growth period for the root systems, which can range from one hour to three months.

An artist, architect, and environmental activist, Lin is known for her critical engagement with notions of site and place through a multidisciplinary, ecologically minded practice spanning large-scale environmental installations, intimate studio artworks, architectural projects, and memorials. Since her very first work, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C., Lin has cultivated a highly acclaimed career in the fields of both art and architecture, while still nurturing a commitment to creating architectural interventions focused on history, memory, and cultural shifts. Her artworks have helped focus attention on critical environmental issues. One of her more recent projects, the award-winning digital platform and conceptual artwork What Is Missing?, is a multi-sited memorial to mass extinctions of species and habitat degradation that also proposes sustainable solutions for reducing carbon emissions and protecting the environment.

The artist, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by US President Barack Obama in 2016, has been commissioned to create a sculpture for the Obama Presidential Center in Chicago, expected to open in 2025. Most recently, she was chosen to design a new performing arts studio building for the Fisher Center at Bard College in New York state. In 2022, *TIME* magazine named Lin one of the year's most influential people.

Lin's Ghost Forest Seedlings project is linked to her recent *Ghost Forest* installation, commissioned by the Madison Square Park Conservancy in New York. For that work, the artist brought 50 towering Atlantic white cedar trees to Madison Square Park as part of an examination of the Earth's vulnerability and the impact of the climate crisis.

About the Project

With Ghost Forest Seedlings, Lin explores the organic growth patterns of a living, subterranean network of tree roots. Her blockchain-backed, generative algorithm for the project generates NFTs featuring seedlings that grow into expansive root systems over time, as well as physical prints that show the root network in its final, fully evolved state. As such, Ghost Forest Seedlings reflects the artist's deep sensitivity to the complexity, beauty, and fragility of the natural world and its interconnected systems.

Ghost Forest Seedlings can be understood as part of Lin's longstanding artistic investigations of phenomena in the natural world, for which she often engages with scientific tools and methods to reveal hidden and endangered elements of the environment.

In addition to *Ghost Forest*, Ghost Forest Seedlings relates to the artist's sculptural, topographical studies of rivers, which she began producing in 2007. The delicate tendrils of the roots in Ghost Forest Seedlings recall the snaking linear forms of her sculptures of waterways, which speak to Lin's interest in mapping topographical landscapes while also serving as meditations on the ways that natural resources defy and transcend borders and other human constructs. Like Ghost Forest Seedlings, the artist's understated but deeply resonant sculptures of water and bodies of water merge the past and present, situating the climate crisis within the arc of natural history.

The conceptual underpinnings and formal qualities of Ghost Forest Seedlings also reflect Lin's interest in depictions of organic—as opposed to fractal and geometric—patterns in computer generated art, and the algorithm she has developed for this project will generate growth patterns as varied and intricate as those found in nature.

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Maya Lin (b. 1959, Athens, Ohio) creates work that encompasses environmental installations, architectural projects, sculpture, and memorials. Critically engaging with considerations of site and place, her practice explores the development of systems that reflect on the environment, creating work that invites contemplation—intellectual, sensorial, and physical—of history and the natural world. Lin received significant recognition as a student at Yale University with her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1982). For Lin, experience, movement, and nature are integral to her work in art, architecture, and design, heightening spatial perception and environmental awareness. Her approach to art making often finds its origins in science, demonstrated in her application of satellite technology and cartographic techniques.

Pace Verso is Pace Gallery's hub for integrated Web3 artworks, launched in 2021 under the leadership of Pace CEO Marc Glimcher. Pace Verso works closely with artists within and beyond the gallery's program to incubate, develop, and realize their Web3 projects, operating an NFT platform on the Ethereum blockchain at verso.pacegallery.com. Pace Verso is widely recognized for bridging the divide between the traditional art world and Web3, particularly in the generative art space. In addition to releasing independent artist projects, Pace Verso frequently collaborates with leading Web3 platforms to share artists' work with wide audiences. In 2022, Pace Verso established a multifaceted partnership with Art Blocks, the leading generative art platform, encompassing generative NFT releases by Pace's artists, exhibitions, and community programming. In its first two years, Pace Verso—which reflects the gallery's longtime and ongoing support of innovative artists who have cultivated advanced studio practices engaged with boundary-pushing technologies—has presented projects by Jeff Koons, Tyler Hobbs, Loie Hollowell, Robert Whitman, Tara Donovan, John Gerrard, Zhang Huan, Lucas Samaras, and other artists. Pace Verso has also grown a robust following on its dedicated Discord server, directly engaging Web3 communities through discussions with creative luminaries from the worlds of both art and technology.

Press Inquiries

Claire Hurley
Associate Director of Public Relations
churley@pacegallery.com
+1 703 901 1960

Emily Kopp
Public Relations Associate
ekopp@pacegallery.com
+1 516 426 4146

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