

Jane Hammond: Fallen

The FLAG Art Foundation is honored to present Jane Hammond's *Fallen*, a monumental ongoing installation on which the artist has worked continuously for seven years. This poignant memorial consists of a low rectangular platform layered with a vast multitude of brilliant fall leaves.

Each leaf is unique, handmade by the artist, and inscribed by her with the name of a U.S. soldier killed in Iraq. This exhibition at the FLAG Art Foundation begins with 4455 leaves.

As a memorial, Hammond's *Fallen* is unusual in that it emphasizes the singularity of each individual by making his or her leaf unique. The light and delicate materials subvert the traditional expectations of enduring materials such as bronze and stone in favor of an expression of the fragility and ephemerality of life.

The artist has said: "There is something about leaves in the autumn, at the zenith of their coloration that is transcendent: they are both dematerializing and intensifying simultaneously. As their bodies become lighter, their color is becoming more and more radiant. I've tried to gather leaves just at this moment when the chroma is so strong it transcends the body of the leaf and becomes a kind of pure light. It rhymes with the idea of the spirit but in a way that is accessible and earthly. It's more Emerson than Aquinas."

Born in Bridgeport, CT in 1950, Hammond received her BA from Mount Holyoke College in 1972 and her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1977. Her work can be found in over 50 major public collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Chicago Art Institute, the National Gallery of Art and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Hammond currently lives and works in New York and is represented by Galerie Lelong.

This exhibition at The FLAG Art Foundation was organized by The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.