

Widewalls, February 20, 2015

# WIDEWALLS

Paula Hayes at Salon 94 Bowery

By Mona Paul



There is a lot of ways to give meaning to the process of art creation. The revival of your connections with some of the aspects of life is what Paula Hayes is aiming at. "I don't believe in an artwork unless it is alive" she says, and she is widely recognized for her glass terrariums and other living artworks.

## Light Sculptures by Paula Hayes

Paula Hayes works with sculpture, drawing, installation art, botany, and landscape design. She has a deep connection with nature and her works are intensely reflecting these bonds. She opens up questions about the relations between art and nature, gallery and garden. In one of the interviews she gave during the 2010, she said that the glass of her terrariums are like a megaphone and that the plants and minerals can easily be heard. In her own words, she was working as a gardener when she realized: "gardens and sculptures – that's for me". In Morning Glory, Paula Hayes exhibition at Salon 94, she will, after more than two decades of working with gardens of plants and minerals, present her new work. The light sculptures of Paula Hayes are representing the powerful specter of colours: they are showing us Aurora borealis, the lights of the northern hemisphere. The sculptures permeate the light in deep chromatic variations, emitting a glowing spectrum across the room.

## The Notion of Care

One of the main concepts in the works of Paula Hayes is caring. She has stated that her plants don't have animals which could help the system to achieve sustainability, and that she is their animal, she also wants the public to be conscious of the fragility of her works. The concept of care was recognized and promoted by the feminist theory as one of the key values for the just society that has often been neglected and undervalued by dominant ideology. Although it could be interpreted as a link that holds just between humans, it stretches throughout the ecosystem, between humans and all other living forms. This is the inspiring principle which Paula Hayes doesn't lose from sight: she considers the collaboration with the owner/caretaker to be a very important aspect of her work so she has created an "Agreement for A Living Artwork" to ensure that the owner is committed to caring for the work.

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### Paula Hayes exhibition at Salon 94

Every little ecosystem Paula has created and maintained has its own story, and each is telling about the craft of growing a landscape in a small bubble. They could be seen as primordial jungle landscapes, colorful and vivacious. In the same way, each of her light sculptures is telling a different story in the amazing specter of colors and an intriguing aesthetics. Paula Hayes exhibition at Salon 94 Bowery, Morning Glory will be open from February 20th to March 22nd, 2015, and the opening reception will be held on February 20 (6-8pm).