

Albert's Garden Art Installation Preview

June 12, 2021

5 - 8 pm

16 East 2nd Street

Albert's Garden is pleased to preview a forthcoming installation of members' and local artists' work in the Fall, which will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the garden's founding.

Set to music curated by Greg LeClaire, images taken within the garden during the pandemic by Photographer Francine Lange are projected directly onto one of the garden's expansive brick walls, alongside a photo narrative entitled *My Secret Garden* by Artist Allegra Colletti in collaboration with Photographer Yu Mengci. Enhanced by the wall's painterly patina, the projections become increasingly visible as night falls and the garden goes to sleep.

Left projection:

Surviving Covid

Photography by Francine Lange taken in Albert's Garden



Right projection:

My Secret Garden

Artist: Allegra Colletti

Photography: Yu Mengci

Hair & Make Up: Willie Huang

Music curated by Greg LeClaire

Garments can act as armor or a protective shell, shielding women from prying eyes and unwanted stares, while giving them the strength and courage needed to operate in a world dominated by men. "My Secret Garden" is a narrative exploring the sense of freedom women gain in a safe and private space. Freedom from judgement, from harm, from societal expectations. Freedom to dream, to explore and to just... be. The story can be viewed as a portrayal of an inner world vs the outer world around us. In this hidden world, the clothing no longer functions as protection but as an expression of liberation and joy. The armor comes off and a soft underlayer is revealed. The images reflect a sense of serenity and peace; a sense of comfort in one's own skin that becomes tangible once the outer layers have been peeled away. The title of the work makes reference to the 1973 book "My Secret Garden" by Nancy Friday, the first published compilation of women's sexual fantasies which refuted many previously accepted notions of female sexuality and encouraged women to speak openly about their intimate thoughts.



Allegra Colletti uses articles from her personal archive which are a combination of designer pieces collected from around the world, vintage items, family heirlooms, and pieces created by herself to relay a story of women's liberation.

About Albert's Garden

Two brownstones once stood on the lot that now makes up Albert's Garden. They were torn down in 1968 and the land was repurposed as a basketball court. The space was neglected, and it began to fill up with trash and abandoned items. In 1971, Albert Eisenlau, an antiques dealer who lived nearby and was involved with the Liz Christy Garden, began to clear up the plot with other neighbors. Under the stewardship of Albert, Ben Wohlburg and Louise Kruger, the asphalt was slowly replaced with dirt and soil donated from an art installation and plants began to take root.

In 1998, Albert's Garden was threatened when Mayor Rudolph Giuliani declared an auction to rid the city of the financial burden that empty lots-turned-into-gardens represented. The property was purchased in 1998 by the Trust for Public Land at city auction along with other community gardens in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Manhattan.

Today, Albert's is a quiet neighborhood place to admire nature's beauty. Now a mature shade garden where perennials unfold throughout the seasons, visitors can enjoy bird watching, linger near the gold fish pond, enjoy a wall mural by famed street artist, Roa, and attend community events.

We are open on a limited basis for small private events. If you would like to make an inquiry about hosting a private event, please contact us at albertsgarden@earthlink.net.

Contact Us

For more information on how to volunteer, become a member, or make a donation, please visit our website at albertsgarden.org.

Follow us on Instagram [@albertsgardennyc](https://www.instagram.com/albertsgardennyc)

Follow us on Facebook at [facebook.com/albertsgardennyc](https://www.facebook.com/albertsgardennyc)

Special thanks to FABnyc, Printed Matter St. Marks, 8-ball Community, and Karma for making this event possible.