

UNDERSTORY: A Perspective on Painting with Light

Tuesday, November 12, 6 p.m.

Jackie Bailey Labovitz is an artist/photographer who goes to great lengths to find and photograph flora that most people either don't notice or take for granted, missing their inherent beauty and contribution to the natural environment. She spends hours on damp woodland floors photographing small native plants from a perspective that few get to see.

Born in rural Virginia, Ms. Labovitz began collecting insects at an early age. Meticulously arranging arthropods in cigar boxes was her first curatorial attempt. She moved on to curate art collections for major corporations and American embassies around the world.

Her photographic safari began in 2003 in the Shenandoah Valley. Inspired by her interest in native plants documented as having been on the grounds of Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, she set out to photograph them. Her remarkably detailed photographs of these and other native plants that grow beneath the forest canopy appear to be paintings—their quality of light and detail provide a captivating richness and depth.

In the presentation, Ms. Labovitz will discuss her portfolio: *UNDERSTORY*. The core of the body of work was first shown in 2010-11 at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Naturalist Center. In 2011, it was exhibited at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, and at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. In 2012, an expanded portfolio was shown at the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants, at Monticello. Early this year, it was exhibited at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond. The collection, now consisting of more than 30 images, includes natives that bloom throughout the season, not just spring ephemerals.

Last January, *UNDERSTORY* opened at the U.S. Botanic Garden. In June, it opened at the National Academy of Sciences, Keck Gallery, in Washington, where it is currently on view.

Ms. Labovitz will be showing paintings, sculpture, drawings, and prints that have influenced the way she sees, and will discuss how her curatorial history influences her photographic endeavors.

Cocktails at 6, dinner at 6:45, and the presentation at 8. Please reserve with Member Services. Price: \$40.



Yellow Lady Slipper

BILL FLURY ('96)

Program chair, Cosmotographers

DON GERSON ('88)

Chair, Cosmotographers