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New Queens Sculptures Grow Food through Art

Community art project creates edible mushroom-producing sculptures

LONG ISLAND CITY, NEW YORK, June 15 -- A new sculptural installation in Queens is using art to improve agricultural practices for mushroom farmers. The completion of the four sculptures marks the launch of a year-long experiment on ways to improve gourmet mushroom harvests and create new regional agrotourism opportunities.

The sculptures are constructed entirely of biodegradable materials which will serve as a growing medium for yellow oyster and lion's mane mushroom varieties. Initially resembling stone-carved monuments, the works will gradually transform into blooming towers of harvestable mushrooms.

The project, entitled *Myco-Rise*, is being produced by Salt Tree Art, a Queens-based artist collective that produces visual and performing art exploring the connections between the arts, ecology, and community. Community groups participated in the design of the sculptures, including youth artists from the non-profit Hour Children. The project has been funded through a 2018 Burning Man Global Art grant.

The installation will run from June 2018 through June 2019 at the Smiling Hogshead Ranch, an urban farm in Long Island City, Queens that focuses on community empowerment through ecology, education, and collaboration.

A public opening for the sculptures will take place on Saturday, June 23rd from 11AM-2PM at Smiling Hogshead Ranch, located at 25-30 Skillman Avenue in Long Island City, Queens.

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More information about Salt Tree Art can be found at: <http://salttree.art>

More information about Smiling Hogshead Ranch can be found at:
<http://www.smilinghogsheadranch.org/>

More information about the 2018 Burning Man Global Art Grantees can be found at:
<https://burningman.org/culture/burning-man-arts/grants/global/grantee-projects/2018-grantee-projects/>