



**Noyes**  
Museum of Art  
STOCKTON UNIVERSITY



Education Guide

September 27, 2019 – January 2, 2020

## ***Into the Forest***

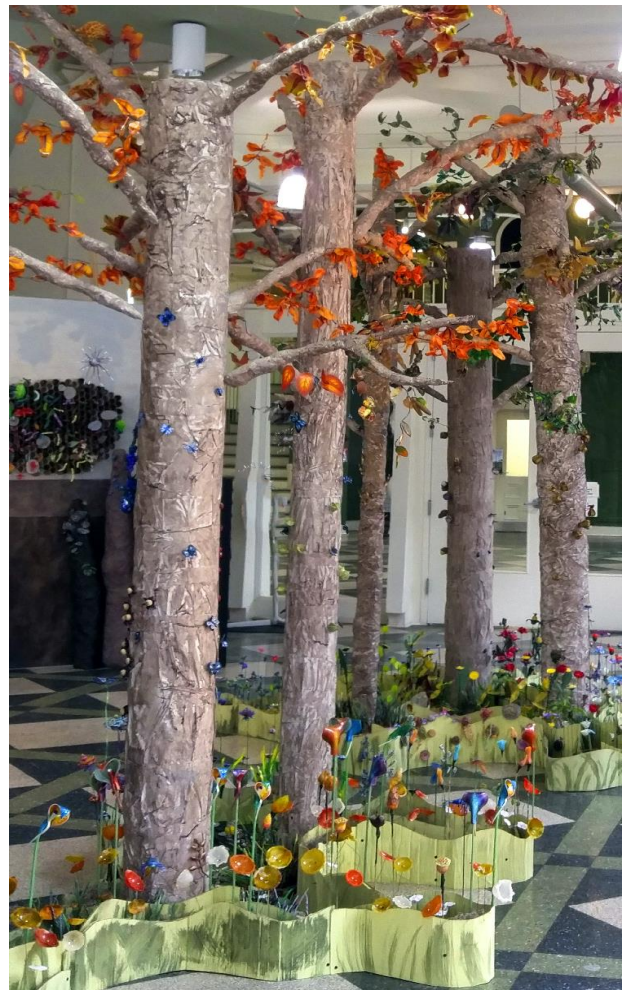
**Laura Tabakman,  
Emile Squires Levine and  
Julie Eakes, Artist/Curators**

**Free Opening Receptions:  
Friday, September 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm and  
Second Friday, October 11, 6:00 – 8:00 pm**

**Polymer Clay Classes for adults and children:  
<http://artsgarageac.com>**

*Into the Forest* is the first international, collaborative polymer clay installation of its kind. The idea came about when Laura Tabakman, Emily Squires Levine, and Julie Eakes came together at a polymer clay retreat in August 2015. That year, Tabakman and Levine began a small collaboration inspired by the aspen trees of the Rocky Mountains. Over the following year, they created the installation project *Into the Forest: Early Growth*. When the group secured the Spinning Plate Gallery in Pittsburgh, they were faced with the task of filling a significantly larger space than the previous exhibition. They decided to put out an international call for polymer clay artists to create pieces inspired by their environments, cultures and imaginations. From beginners to professionals and schoolchildren to adults, this project brought together over 300 contributors from 37 states in the U.S. and 26 countries worldwide.

Polymer clay, the principal medium for this exhibition, is an oven-baked modeling clay made from a plastic polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, base. This versatile medium with its ease of use, allowed the artists to create a wide array of forest specimens, showcasing a multitude of flora and fauna. *Into the Forest* is a visual representation of the ideas and handiwork of hundreds of diverse people coming together. Combined as an art installation, the work brings the viewer into a colorful and magical world.



*Deep in the Forest (detail),  
polymer clay, mixed media*



*The Meadow* (detail),  
polymer clay, mixed media

Laura Tabakman began making jewelry out of polymer clay in 1995. Born in Argentina and currently living in Pittsburgh, Tabakman has shown her work in exhibitions across the nation and the world. She is an award-winning, self-taught studio artist and has been featured in books and magazines. In addition to polymer clay, her artistic talent spans across other artistic mediums including fiber arts, photography, digital printing and mixed-media sculptures. She has been a teaching artist around the world since 2005.

Emily Squires Levine is a Philadelphia-based polymer clay artist. She uses the Italian *millefiori*, or caning, technique, which involves rolling different colored strips into colorful tubes called canes and compiling the canes into an image. She has exhibited in many shows and galleries, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show, and has received several awards. She has an MBA and worked in investment advisory before becoming a full-time artist.

Julie Eakes is a Charlotte, North Carolina artist who joined Tabakman and Squires Levine when they secured the Pittsburgh gallery for their exhibition. She began working with polymer clay in 2006. Originally specializing in face cane and representational caning, she now uses thousands of polymer clay canes to create large portraits. Eakes is an award-winning artist, teacher and author.

**For more information about the exhibition and the artist/curators visit:**

<https://intotheforestinstallation.com/>  
[www.JulieEakes.blogspot.com](http://www.JulieEakes.blogspot.com)  
[www.emilysquireslevine.com](http://www.emilysquireslevine.com)  
[www.lauratabakman.com](http://www.lauratabakman.com)

**The Noyes Arts Garage of Stockton University // [www.artsgarageac.com](http://www.artsgarageac.com) // (609) 626-3805**  
**The Noyes Museum of Art of Stockton University // [www.noyesmuseum.org](http://www.noyesmuseum.org) // (609) 626-3420**  
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