



Strawberry, Blueberry, Sage, and Maple, from Old Growth Series II

Date
2023

Primary Maker
Margaret Jacobs

Medium
Blackened steel and found objects

Description

Margaret Jacobs works primarily in steel because she enjoys the dichotomy of creating natural, delicate-looking sculpture from a man-made material that is both hard and unforgiving. Jacobs employs traditional blacksmithing techniques, raising awareness of her trade through organizations like The Society of Inclusive Blacksmiths. An enrolled member of the Akwesasne Mohawk tribe, Jacobs first created the Old Growth series in 2019 as a reflection on her rural upbringing that involved repairing and reusing objects. The plants featured in her sculptures bear medicinal and ceremonial significance to the Akwesasne people. The Wellin artworks from 2023 depict: Strawberries— the first fruit of harvest brought to the world by Skywoman, ushering in summer and representing life, health, and new beginnings. Blueberries— readily available in the North American climate, they can be dried and used as a natural food preservative. Sage— used for ritual smudging as a form of purification. When burned in an abalone shell, the smoke is spread with an eagle's feather to unify the earth, air, and spirit. Maple— collecting sap signifies the end of winter and a time to thank the Creator. Each plant sculpture hangs from a wrench, honoring the Mohawk Skywalkers who traveled weekly from their homes in Northern New York and Canada to perform dangerous work in urban areas, particularly New York City, constructing skyscrapers.

Dimensions

Overall (2025.25.1): 35 x 8 x 3 1/2 in. (88.9 x 20.3 x 8.9 cm) Overall (2025.25.2): 31 1/2 x 8 1/2 x 3 1/4 in. (80 x 21.6 x 8.3 cm) Overall (2025.25.3): 36 1/2 x 5 x 3 1/4 in. (92.7 x 12.7 x 8.3 cm) Overall (2025.25.4): 29 x 8 3/4 x 3 in. (73.7 x 22.2 x 7.6 cm)