

SHAKER MUSEUM | MOUNT LEBANON

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon opens Granary, a solo exhibition by artist Amie Cunat

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Title: *Granary*

Dates: June 22 – October 14, 2019

Reception: Saturday, June 22, 2:00-6:00 PM

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon is pleased to present *Granary*, a solo exhibition by resident artist Amie Cunat, on view from June 22 – October 14, 2019. For her installation at the Mount Lebanon historic site, Cunat reimagines the Granary's historic function by reconstructing its storage structures and elevator with paper materials and vibrant color choices. As the viewer traverses around the grain bins, one will find areas of its walls richly painted with imagery influenced by Shaker gift drawings.



From *Granary*, Amie Cunat, 2019

The Granary, where the exhibition takes place, was built by the Shakers in 1838 to store oats, wheat, barley, and rye and is a rare and early example of a commercial-sized granary on a farm. World Monuments Fund, a federal Save America's Treasures grant, and private donors funded restoration of the south section of timber frame, roof, and siding of the building. Exterior restorations, including shutters, doors, windows, and historic gutter system and paint was done in conjunction with the North Bennet Street School preservation trades internship program.

Amie Cunat (b. McHenry, IL) is a Japanese-American artist, whose paintings and installations utilize biomorphic forms and comedic hues to investigate parallels between

abstraction and perception. She received her MFA from Cornell University, a Post-Baccalaureate in Painting and Drawing from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her BA in Visual Arts and Art History from Fordham University. Cunat has had solo exhibitions in New York and abroad at Victori + Mo, Knockdown Center, Sunroom Project Space at Wave Hill, The Cooper Union, AIRY Gallery, among others. Recent group exhibitions include, *The Unusual Suspects* at DC Moore Gallery, New York; *Everyday Perfection* at The Albany Airport Gallery, Albany; *Surreality* at Crush Curatorial, New York; *Softer but Louder* at Geary Contemporary, New York; *The Unlikely Whole* at ArtYard, New Jersey. In 2019, she was awarded a NYSCA/REDC grant in collaboration with Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon. Her work has been reviewed and featured by The New York Times, Vogue Italia, ARTnews, Artsy, Artnet News, Two Coats of Paint, and Hyperallergic. Cunat lives and works in New York, NY.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon received a grant in the amount of \$47,671 from the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA) to support Cunat's residency, this exhibition, and arts programming for community members this summer at its historic Shaker site in New Lebanon, NY. The funding was made available through the Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) Initiatives.

Shaker Museum | Mount Lebanon is dedicated to preserving the history of the Shakers, including their furniture and architecture as well as their values of inclusion, innovation, integrity, and conviction. It stewards the historic site in New Lebanon, New York, which is open year-round for programs seasonally. The museum also has a campus in Old Chatham, New York, open year-round by appointment, where the administrative offices, collections, library, and archives are housed. The museum's collection of over 16,000 Shaker items is the most comprehensive collection of its kind in the world and may be viewed online at www.shakerml.org.