

Garrison Art Center

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARA BALDWIN | Rover

May 16 - June 21, 2026



Kindling (1 of 100+, unframed), 2024, color pencil and pen on paper, 8" x 8" each

APRIL 8, 2026, GARRISON, NY— This May, Garrison Art Center (GAC) presents *Rover*, a solo exhibition by Visiting Artist Mara Baldwin, that centers on a new body of work inspired by the utopian ambitions, and contradictions, of summer camp culture. Drawing from an unreliable archive of camp ephemera: twig-built candle boats, knotted friendship bracelets, hand-stitched felt banners of nicknames and inside jokes, and faded photographs from disposable cameras, Baldwin recreates these humble objects through drawing and textile processes. The result is a series of meditations on belonging, community, and the deeply human desire to build small worlds together. The Opening Reception for *Rover* will be held on **Saturday, May 16, 2026** from **5 - 7 PM** which is **free and open to the public**.

EXHIBITION HIGHLIGHTS: All exhibition-related events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Dates: May 16 - June 21, 2026

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 16, 2026, 5 - 7 PM

Artist Talk: Saturday, June 6, 2026, 3 PM

Adult Workshop: Sunday, June 7, 2026, 10:30 - 11:30 AM

Family Workshop: Sunday, June 7, 2026, 1 - 2 PM

While summer camp is often remembered as a carefree rite of passage, Baldwin approaches it as a subject worthy of deeper reflection. Her work considers both the tenderness and the fraught joy of searching for identity within communal spaces. Through this lens, she also examines the histories of exclusion embedded in outdoor and camp traditions—including colonial legacies, class divisions, and forms of white feminism—reflecting on how spaces once meaningful in childhood can simultaneously alienate queer and trans communities today.

In response, the environments Baldwin creates suggest human presence without directly depicting it. Her work combines found materials, intricate surfaces, and carefully constructed textures to evoke quiet interiors and remnants of speculative landscapes—spaces where memory, labor, and imagination intersect, especially the historically under-recognized depth of female experience.

Balancing affection with critique, *Rover* invites viewers to consider how handmade objects, collective rituals, and imaginative play shape personal and shared histories. These humble objects become meditations on belonging, community, and the deeply human desire to connect and gather together.

Baldwin's artist talk will offer insight into her research-driven process, exploring themes of Girl Scouting, camp culture, and utopian ideals. She will discuss how personal and historical materials inform her multimedia installations. As a member of the queer and trans community, Baldwin brings a critical and personal perspective to questions of belonging, identity, and transformation.

The exhibition also includes two hands-on workshops led by the artist.

- The **adult workshop** will focus on observational and interpretive drawing, combining watercolor and colored pencil techniques in a session on botanical illustration.
- The **family workshop** invites participants to create small bark boats using natural materials gathered along the Hudson River, incorporating techniques such as wax binding, knotting, and lashing.

Mara Baldwin is an artist whose work focuses on the impossible dream of utopia and asks if a perfect life can include the imperfect feelings of failure, loneliness, and dissatisfaction. Baldwin's multidisciplinary and research-based work uses textiles and drawings to create serial and narrative forms. She shares her time between Red Hook, NY in the Hudson Valley and Ithaca, New York, where she teaches drawing at Bard College and Cornell University, respectively. She is the recipient of a 2022 New York State Council on the Arts grant and has been awarded residencies at, among others, Women's Studio Workshop, Wassaic Project, Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency program, Ucross Foundation, Millay Colony for the Arts, Djerassi, and Saltonstall. Recent solo and group exhibitions at venues including the Everson Museum of Art (Syracuse); Wassaic Project; Herbert F. Johnson Art Museum at Cornell University; Rosefsky Gallery at Binghamton University; String Room Gallery at Wells College; Davis Gallery at Hobart and William Smith Colleges; Concepto Hudson; and Corners Gallery, Ithaca, New York.

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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: To learn more about Mara Baldwin, visit marabaldwin.com. For information about exhibitions, classes, and other programs at Garrison Art Center, please visit garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960. The Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday – Sunday, 10 AM - 5 PM. Connect with us at [@GarrisonArtCenter](https://www.instagram.com/GarrisonArtCenter).

ABOUT GARRISON ART CENTER: Garrison Art Center (GAC), located in Garrison, NY, is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit arts and education organization founded in 1964. GAC is committed to making a difference by providing access to the visual arts to a diverse audience of learners, professional artists, community members, collectors, families, and friends from varied ethnic, cultural, geographic, and economic backgrounds.



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