

## TWO NEW ACQUISITIONS OF CONTEMPORARY ART AT HILLWOOD

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Hillwood recently acquired two pieces of contemporary art. Hillwood's first acquisition of garden sculpture, Kristine Mays's *Soon and Very Soon #21*, represents the guardian to the current exhibition [Kristine Mays: Rich Soil](#) and sets the tone for discoveries in the garden and storytelling. (Fig. 1) The sculpture incorporates the quote "There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you" by the African American poet Maya Angelou (1928–2014), and will continue to connect the messages of Mays's work with the history of Hillwood's land and Marjorie Post's passion for dance. Following the exhibition, the sculpture will find a permanent home near the new bio retention garden of the Collections and Research Center.

Hillwood also acquired a piece of contemporary ceramics for the collection. Roberto Lugo's covered vase, entitled *Good Trouble*, features Statesman and civil rights activist, John Lewis (1940–2020) on the front, and three female politicians, Vice President Kamala Harris, Stacey Abrams, and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez on the reverse. (Fig. 2) Lugo uses traditional European and Asian porcelain techniques and forms to address the question of identity, politics, cultural inclusion, and systems of power. Their hand-painted surfaces feature classic decorative patterns and motifs combined with elements inspired by graffiti and contemporary iconography of Black and Latino figures whose faces are historically absent on this type of luxury item.

The tradition of acquiring contemporary ceramics for the collection began with Hillwood's acquisition of Soviet porcelain initiated by Post. The vase will be included in the upcoming exhibition [Luxury of Clay: Porcelain Past and Present](#), that will feature a selection of Lugo's work, followed by future projects.



Fig. 1: *Soon and Very Soon #21*  
San Francisco, 2021  
Kristine Mays (American, b. 1969)  
Painted steel wire with copper patina  
45 x 32 x 24 in.  
Museum purchase, 2021 (2021.5)



Fig. 2: *Good Trouble*  
Philadelphia, 2020  
Roberto Lugo (American, born 1981)  
Glazed ceramic and enamel paint  
17 x 11.5 x 11.5 in.  
Museum purchase, 2021 (2021.4.1-2)  
Photo courtesy of Wexler Gallery