

Art

# Breathing More Deeply With Art in the Hudson River Valley

The second edition of the Upstate Art Weekend offered glimpses of some of the myriad flavors of art in the Hudson River Valley.



by Seph Rodney  
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NEWBURGH, NY — Part of the mythology I absorbed growing up in New York City is the notion that no art of real importance or surprising innovation happens outside our metropolis, but the [Upstate Art Weekend](#) event effectively put the kibosh on that fairytale. Its second edition, which took place this past Friday through Sunday and featured 61 sculpture parks, museums, galleries, studios, and residencies, offered me glimpses of some of the myriad flavors of art in the Hudson River Valley. The number of places to visit was way more than I could stuff into three days, but I didn't run through the spaces with a sense of desperation. Now that I live in the valley, in the town of Newburgh, I was able take lovely scenic drives on winding roads to catch some standout shows that I think are worth talking about.

I first visited Mohonk Arts in High Falls, which has a residency program that currently includes four artists, but for the weekend they invited several more creators into their shed-like building. The work there was all kinds of gorgeous. I particularly liked [Suzy Sureck's](#) "Branch" (2017), an installation of stainless steel antlers jutting out from the wall, and precise lighting to make the object feel both beautiful and menacing. I adored [Megan Pahmier's](#) "fall-out 20/21" (2021), which, on one side of the hall, consisted of one thin scrim of fiberglass that had been riddled by some violent force, and against the other wall the excised pieces suspended in perfect formation.



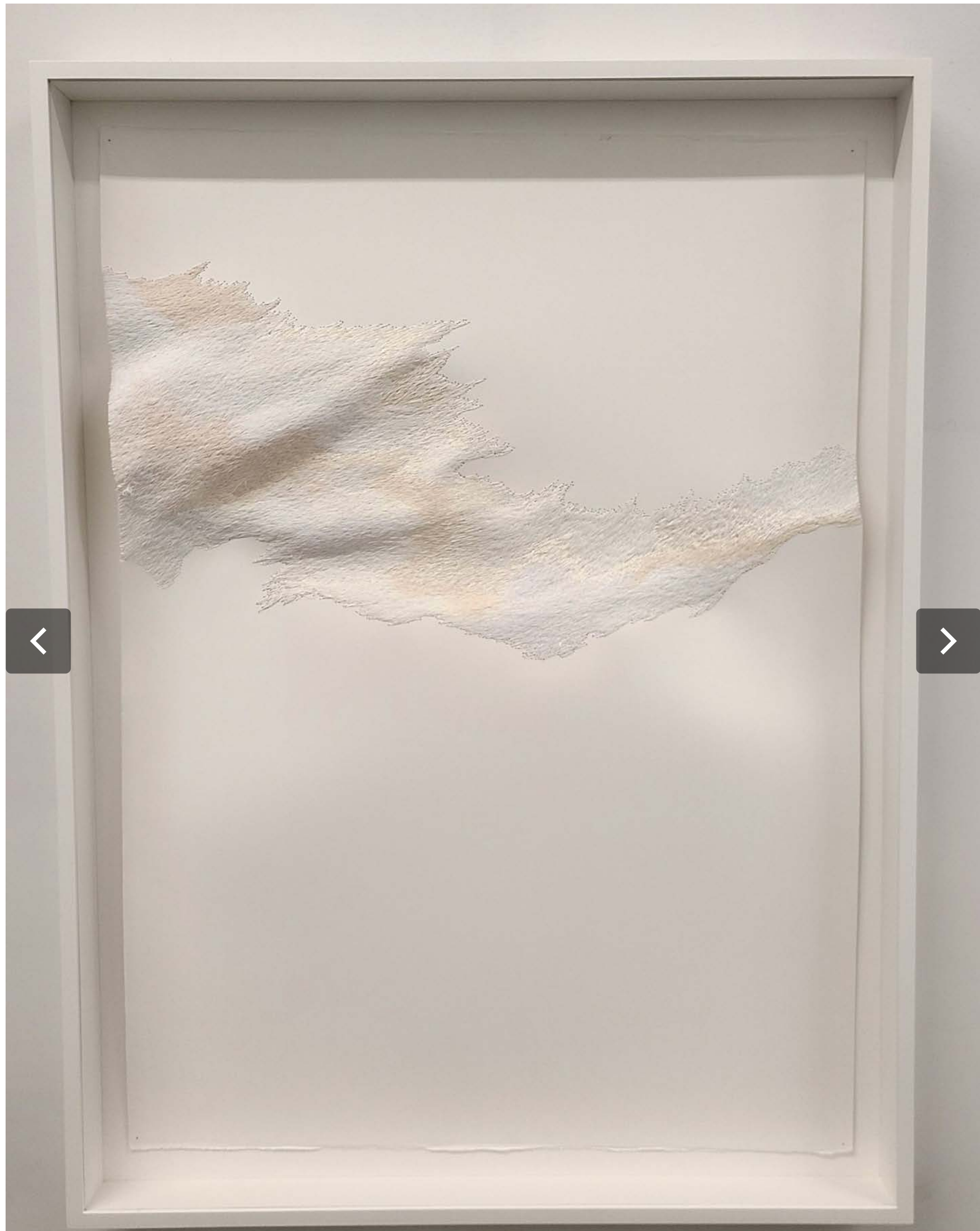
At Mohonk Arts, Megan Pahmier, "fall-out 20/21" (2021), fiberglass window screen, steel pins (one view)



At Mohonk Arts, Megan Pahmier, "fall-out 20/21" (2021), fiberglass window screen, steel pins (the other view)



Suzy Sureck, "Branch" (2017) digitally water cut stainless steel, 26"h x 6"w x 23"d



At Mohonk Arts: Jessie Henson, "Who Will Take on the Unfinished Work of the Dead? V" (2017) polyester and rayon thread on paper 30 x 22.5 x 2 inches

