# SUSAN INGLETT GALLERY

## MAREN HASSINGER ON DANGEROUS GROUND AND NOTES FROM THE WIND 

Born in Los Angeles, CA, 1947
Bennington College, BA, 1969
University of California, Los Angeles, MFA, 1973
Lives and Works in New York, NY

**MAREN HASSINGER** (b. 1947) has built an interdisciplinary practice that articulates the relationship between nature and humanity. Carefully choosing materials for their innate characteristics, Hassinger has explored the subject of movement, family, love, nature, environment, consumerism, identity, and race. The artist uses her materials to mimic nature, whether bundling it to resemble a monolithic sheaf of wheat or planting it in cement to create an industrial garden. The Berkeley Art Museum is hosting a major career retrospective with a monograph slated to travel to three additional venues through 2029. Within the past five years, Hassinger has been commissioned to make work for Sculpture Milwaukee (curated by Ugo Rondinone); The Art Institute of Chicago; Dia Bridgehampton; Socrates Sculpture Park, Queens; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; the Rockefeller Foundation, Tarrytown; and the Aspen Art Museum. Hassinger was recently honored with an exhibition focused on her collaborative performance work with Senga Nengudi at the Cooley Gallery, Reed College, Portland, OR, traveling to the Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH (2024), as well as a two-person survey alongside Nengudi at the Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia (2025). Hassinger is the recipient of the Women's Caucus for the Arts Lifetime Achievement Award. Her work can be found in the permanent collections of the Art Institute of Chicago; the Guggenheim Museum, NYC; the Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, NYC; the San Francisco Museum of Art; and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, among others.

For full details and larger images, please see the end of this document.



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*On Dangerous Ground*, 1981
Wire rope
(MH0017)



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*Splintering (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023
Wire rope
15 x 60 x 12 in. each (Variation 5/10)
Dimensions vary per unit
(MH0291)

$ 55,000.00



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*Splintered Starburst (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2024
Wire rope
50 dia. x 12 in.
127 dia. x 30.48 cm.
(Variation 2/4)
Dimensions vary per unit
(MH0292)

$ 85,000.00



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*Bush (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023
Wire rope
42 x 28 in. dia. (Variation 1/15)
Dimensions vary per unit

(MH0293)

$ 65,000.00



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*Bush (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023
Wire rope
50 x 35 in. dia. (Variation 2/15)
Dimensions vary per unit

(MH0294)

$ 75,000.00



**MAREN HASSINGER** View detail
*Notes from the Wind*, 1991/2026
Concrete and wire rope
1 3/4 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. (Block)
5 1/2 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. (Overall)
(10 units total)
(MH0105)

$ 85,000.00

MAREN HASSINGER
*On Dangerous Ground*, 1981



Wire rope
(MH0017)

MAREN HASSINGER
*Splintering (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023



Wire rope
15 x 60 x 12 in. each (Variation 5/10)
Dimensions vary per unit
(MH0291)

$ 55,000.00

Image 1/7

**Description**
Taking a biomimetic approach to material, the artist weaves, gathers, and unravels strands of wire rope to form bundles of unnatural fiber. Splintering crafts sheaf-like organic forms from industrial materials in a prescient look towards the future in the Age of the Anthropocene.

In 1981 Hassinger was invited by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art to make work for a solo exhibition in their Gallery Six, a small grotto-like space tucked away in the bowels of the Museum. Hassinger approached the opportunity with some skepticism at this early stage in her career, finding the Museum context problematic as an artist whose practice championed the ephemeral in order to challenge societal values. Her response to the invitation was a modular installation titled On Dangerous Ground. Modular, understood as a single motif that repeated until it filled the space but was also temporary. Creating a natural environment from industrial man-made materials, spiky wire rope, Hassinger's title references not only the threatening physical nature of the work but her own precarious position as an artist and woman of color. According to the artist, "the construction of these bushes (in their dissolution of form and their tumultuous placement) reflects the turmoil of contemporary urban

reality where one feels a sense of confusion – a decline in the order of things, a profound sense of loss, vulnerability, and lack of “centeredness.” There’s a lot of diversity, but no divinity.” Splintering recreates one of the elements of the original installation now destroyed.



Image 2/7



Image 3/7



Image 4/7



Image 5/7



Image 6/7



Image 7/7

MAREN HASSINGER
*Splintered Starburst (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2024



Wire rope
50 dia. x 12 in.
127 dia. x 30.48 cm.
(Variation 2/4)
Dimensions vary per unit
(MH0292)

$ 85,000.00

Image 1/6

**Description**

Taking a biomimetic approach to material, the artist weaves, gathers, and unravels strands of wire rope to form bundles of unnatural fiber. Splintering crafts sheaf-like organic forms from industrial materials in a prescient look towards the future in the Age of the Anthropocene.

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Image 2/6

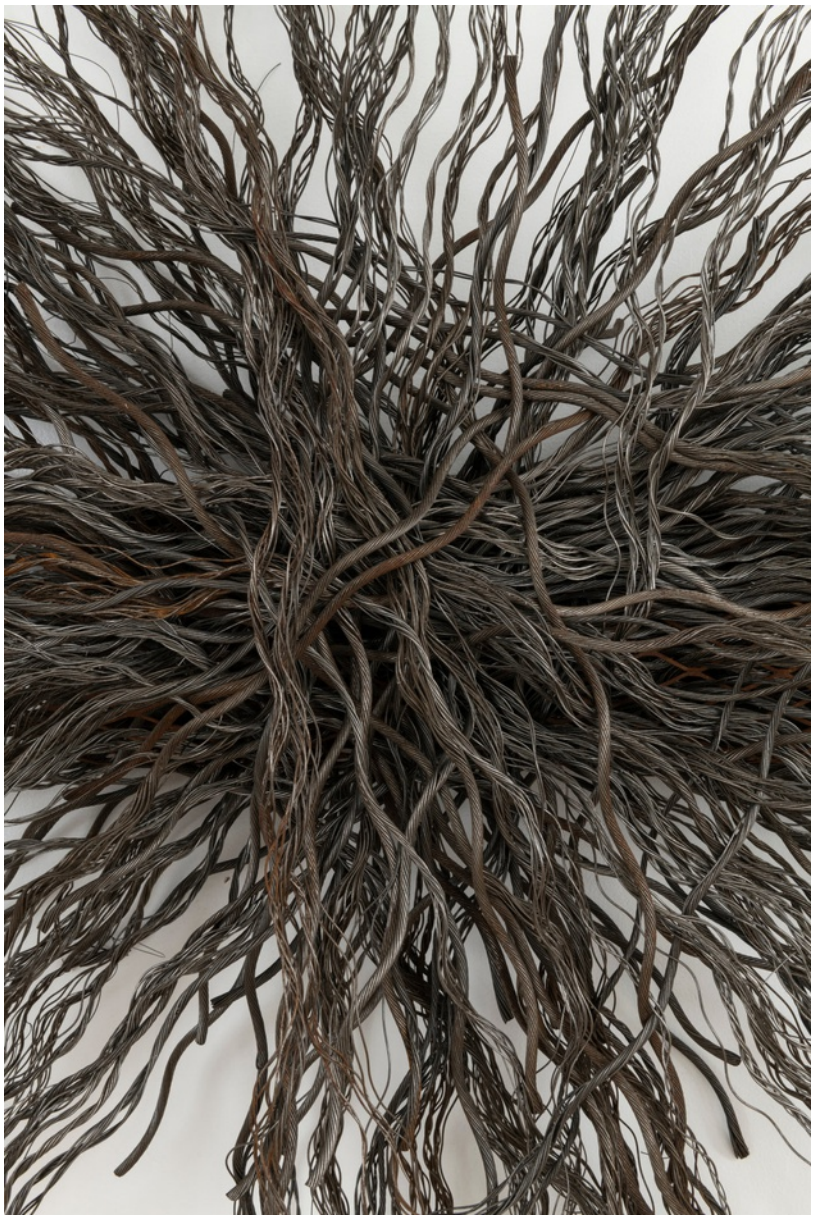

Image 3/6



Image 4/6

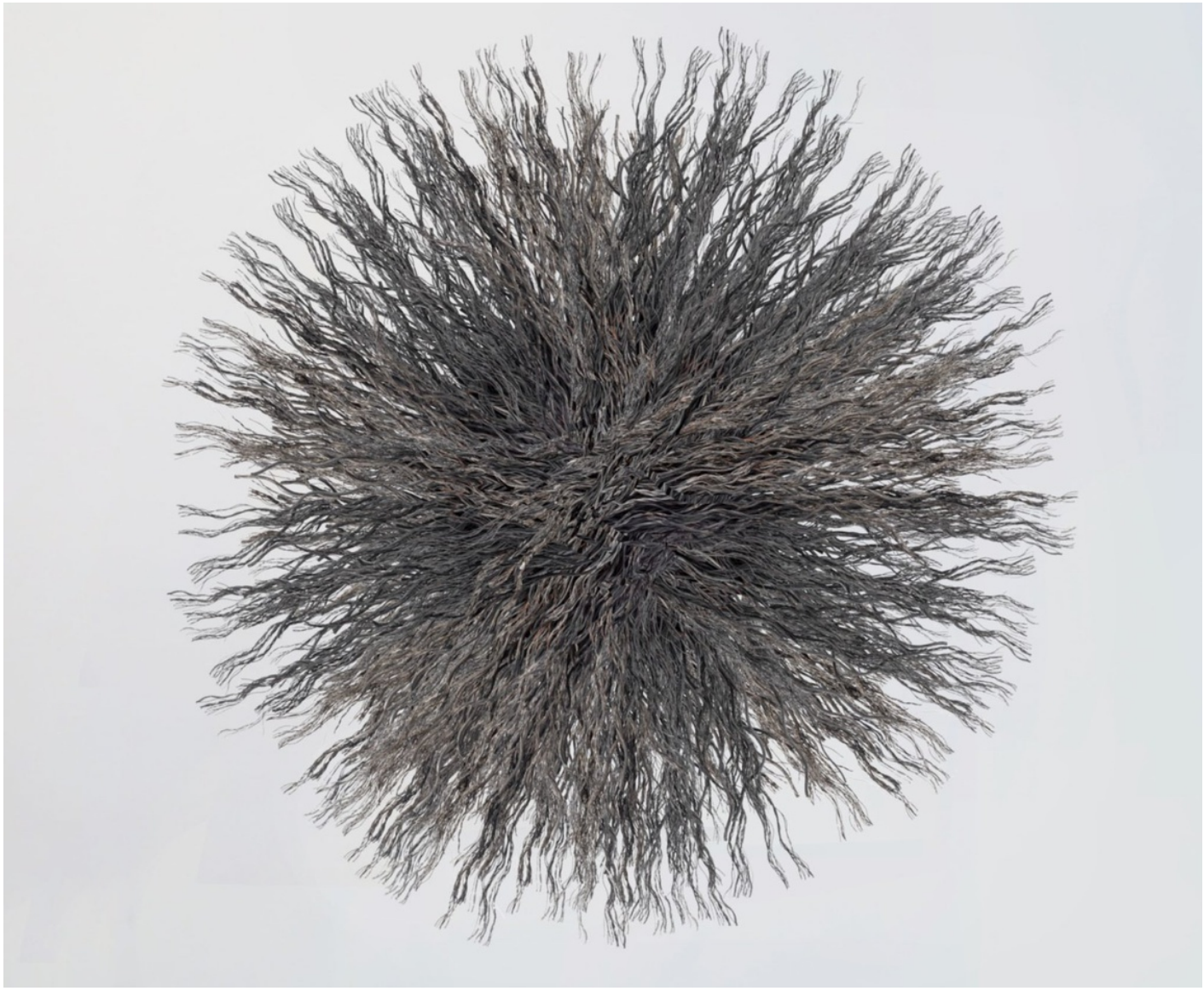

Image 5/6



Image 6/6

MAREN HASSINGER
*Bush (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023



Wire rope
42 x 28 in. dia. (Variation 1/15)
Dimensions vary per unit

(MH0293)

$ 65,000.00

Image 1/2

**Description**

“In a sense, the construction of these bushes (in their dissolution of form and their tumultuous placement) reflects the turmoil of contemporary urban reality where one feels a sense of confusion— a decline in the order of things, a profound sense of loss, vulnerability, and a lack of ‘centeredness’.”

- Maren Hassinger, 1981

The installation of On Dangerous Ground was meant to intimidate, infringe, and threaten. Fifteen industrial bushes tightly packed, their thorny vegetation spiky and towering, forced the visitor to traverse with caution. Dimly lit, the bushes and their shadows played on our perception of things seen, unseen, and half-seen. Gallery Six, a space already narrow and claustrophobic, became a site of nature gone mad.



Image 2/2

MAREN HASSINGER
*Bush (On Dangerous Ground)*, 1981/2023



Wire rope
50 x 35 in. dia. (Variation 2/15)
Dimensions vary per unit

(MH0294)

$ 75,000.00

**Description**
“In a sense, the construction of these bushes (in their dissolution of form and their tumultuous placement) reflects the turmoil of contemporary urban reality where one feels a sense of confusion— a decline in the order of things, a profound sense of loss, vulnerability, and a lack of ‘centeredness’.”

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MAREN HASSINGER
*Notes from the Wind*, 1991/2026



Concrete and wire rope
1 3/4 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. (Block)
5 1/2 x 2 3/4 x 2 3/4 in. (Overall)
(10 units total)
(MH0105)

$ 85,000.00

**Description**
"Notes from the Wind" continues Hassinger's interest in the mimicry of natural forms via industrial materials, as the wire rope is arranged to appear like grass being bent by the wind. Her concrete and wire rope sculptures have evolved and pared down throughout their lineage, but this work is striking in its visual similarity to the form it mimics. The splayed wire rope has a defined sense of movement, and the repetition of the units enforces the appearance of a nonexistent wind.

As with much of her work from the period, the piece was destroyed and materials cannibalized to make new work. "Notes from the Wind" was re-created by the artist for her 2026 exhibition at the Gallery, "Blanket of Branches..: