



ART

**Conrad Ventur**

Illustration by Naomi Elliott

Through Feb. 9.

Participant, Inc.  
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Horticulturalists have a mantra: right plant, right place. For the forty-two-year-old photographer and professional gardener **Conrad Ventur**, that place is Participant, where his unassuming, heartfelt exhibition “A Green New Deal” (through Feb. 9) includes a working greenhouse filled with a hodgepodge of succulents, bonsai, and carnivorous plants. Life also thrives in a projected video, which Ventur shot with camera-outfitted glasses in 2018. The nonlinear piece, edited from dozens of hours down to forty-three quietly absorbing minutes, follows him as he works at a public garden in the Bronx, prints cyanotypes of botanical specimens at home (one is on view), makes a deli run, and visits friends. Ventur is best known for his indelible portraits of the late Warhol superstar Mario Montez, but an earthier muse is the scene-stealer here: the pathbreaking lesbian filmmaker Barbara Hammer, who looks elated, shortly before her death, early last year, to be climbing a tree.

— *Andrea K. Scott*