



PHOTO BY LINDA STILLMAN

**Linda Stillman, an artist in Hillsdale, N.Y., was inspired during and by the COVID-19 pandemic to learn more about the non-native invasive plants that threaten our environment.**

## **ART AND THE DANGER OF INVASIVE PLANTS**

Artist and gallerist KK Kozik opens her ICEHOUSE Project Space in Sharon, Conn., again on Saturday, Aug. 14, with a project by Linda Stillman called "Bitter/Sweet."

Invasive non-native plants are a source of concern to anyone who loves our local landscape. Stillman has constructed an installation from the very plants about which she aims to raise consciousness.

"During the coronavirus lockdown, I found refuge in daily walks along my street in Hillsdale. Trying to identify the roadside plants, I discovered that almost all of them were non-native invasives. My growing awareness of the dangers of these plants coincided with our growing understanding of the invading virus.

"Learning to iden-

tify and name the plants and distinguish them from similar benign species was the first step in my research. I eventually narrowed my focus to the 12 most destructive invasives in our area. In the tradition of the amateur artist/naturalist, I painted images of the plants on round canvases with their common and Latin names, outlined in orange. These *tondi* are arranged in a clock-like circle, hinting at the urgency of preserving biodiversity."

The opening reception for "Bitter/Sweet" will be Aug. 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. The exhibition will run through Sept. 18 and can be viewed by appointment only. Get details on the location and make appointments by calling Kozik at 917-488-8740.

— Cynthia  
Hochswender