

The Mushroom Menagerie is an art installation by Jamestown, NY artist Wendy Bale



CERAMIC CATALOG

**A GUIDE TO THE FUNGI
SPECIES FEATURED IN THE
MUSHROOM MENAGERIE**

WendyBaleArt1st.com



**The Mushroom Menagerie
by Wendy Bale**

**PDF download available at
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FAIRY RING

BLEWIT *Lepista nuda*



Austrian Poplar wood base courtesy of Bill Bale.



THE MUSHROOM MENAGERIE

ceramic installation



The subject of much ancient folklore, a fairy ring in the lawn or in the forest is always a magical find. Fruiting bodies form arcs or circles around an unseen food source below the soil.

In this installation, three dozen lifesize mushrooms dance around an 20" circle. In reality, the rings may grow to 30' in diameter. Espresso-stained kozo paper depicts an underground network of mycelium.

The Wood Blewit was chosen for the fairy ring due to its lovely variation in color from violet to pinkish gray. It also has a tendency to curl into wonderful wavy patterns as it ages. It is one of many species known to grow in fairy rings.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 100

The Mushroom Menagerie

A collection of regional mushrooms created in mixed media: ceramic, paper and wood.
The key below indicates the depicted species' roles in our ecosystem.

KEY

- M** = Mycorrhizal: Fungi that use an underground mycelial network to interact with the roots of plants or trees
- P** = Parasitic: Species that invade and feed on other living organisms, including plants, animals, insects and other fungi
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CASE DISPLAY

SHIITAKE *Lentinula edodes*



S

LION'S MANE *Hericium erinaceus*



P

S



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Native to Southeast Asia, but widely cultivated around the world, this familiar mushroom is a traditional medicinal and culinary favorite. It can be grown on logs or blocks commercially or at home. It is included here to answer the most common question about the Mushrooms in the Menagerie... "Are they edible?"

This non-native species is not listed in the Peterson Field Guide

Lion's mane grows on wounds in living hardwoods, particularly oaks and has a distinctive shape like a clump of spines. When mature, they look like a white dangling beard. The flesh is soft and spongy and has been used in many parts of the world for medicinal benefits.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 301

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CASE DISPLAY

YELLOW MOREL *Morchella americana*



Many different species of morel mushrooms pop up in the spring in North America. Yellow morels range from white to light brown. While at first glance the cap colors would be an indicator of which type you are looking at, but in truth they change so much with age, it is often hard to tell.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 348

MOSSY MAPLE POLYPORE *Oxyporus populinus*



This bracket-type fungus is often found on the wounds on the trunks of maple and other hardwood trees. It gets the common name because it often has companion mosses growing on top of the perennial fruiting bodies. It is parasitic and causes white rot.

This species is not listed in the Peterson Field Guide

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CASE DISPLAY

OYSTER MUSHROOM *Pleurotus ostreatus*



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Growing in shelf-like clusters on the wood and rotting logs of various trees, this saprobe can be found throughout North America. A similar variety, somewhat paler—perhaps more like this sculpture—is called the Aspen oyster. It is more fussy about where it grows, preferring quaking aspen and cottonwood trees.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 296

CINNABAR POLYPORE *Trametes cinnabarina*



Often smaller than shown here, but equally bright in color, these orange polypores are a standout in the forest. Alternately called *Pycnoporus cinnabarinus*, they are decomposers usually found on fallen logs.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 290

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CASE DISPLAY

DYER'S POLYPORE *Phaeolus schweinitzii*



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A bright greenish yellow bracket fungus appeared on a dead red pine in the artist's backyard. Over the course of the summer she watched it grow and the color change eventually to orange, then brown. Dyer's polypore gets its name from the practice of making dye from the fungus. It's also called "Velvet Top" because of its texture.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 202

AMETHYST TALLOWGILL *Laccaria amethystina*



Hardwood forests (represented by the beech leaves in this wall sculpture) are the home of these colorful mushrooms. Often found in deep leaf litter, they have a symbiotic relationship with the trees. Some field guides call this "Amethyst Deceiver", perhaps a more poetic name, but for continuity, names listed here follow the Peterson guide.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 202

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CASE DISPLAY

RESINOUS POLYPORE *Ischnoderma resinosum*



SHAGGYMANE *Coprinus comatus*



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A bejeweled species! The amber resin droplets found on the rim of this sculpture are represented here with art resin-coated tree sap. The Resinous Polypore breaks down dead and dying hardwood trees and is also occasionally found on conifers.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 286

Shaggymanes are part of the Inky Cap family and as they mature the caps turn black and dissolve. They are also known as “Lawyer’s Wig”. It is widely distributed in North America and favors disturbed ground, found alone or in clusters.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 234

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CASE DISPLAY

HEMLOCK REISHI *Ganoderma tsugae*



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The “Spark Fungus” of this entire collection! During a trip to Cook Forest in Pennsylvania the artist discovered these “lacquered polypores” decorating the trunks of old growth Hemlock forest. So shiny and beautiful, she was inspired to replicate them in clay. Over 100 sculptures later, the menagerie continues to grow...

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 202



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DECORATED PHOLIOTA *Leucopholiota decorosa*



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SLIPPERY RING WEBCAP* *Cortinarius trivialis*



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The common name of this handsome mushroom is derived from its scientific name, “decorosa”. However the actual Latin word was a reference to its elegance as in “decent”, “respectable”, “modest”, or “decorous”.

Saprobic on dead wood, often in forests of beech, hemlock, and sugar maple, they can be found throughout the Northeast.

This species is not listed in the Peterson Field Guide.

One of many species of brown cortinarius, Slippery Ring Webcaps are known to be found under Quaking Aspen, but can also associate with Spruce and Birch trees. Slimy when young, the sculpture depicts a dry, older specimen discovered under the Spruce trees in the artist’s yard.
* Not positively identified

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 180

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VIOLET WEBCAP *Corinarius violaceus*



Sometimes called Violet Cort, this mushroom is affiliated with both conifers and deciduous trees. It is found in the soil, but always near trees. The webby veil, which covers the gills on the fruiting body is represented in this sculpture with kozo paper.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 204

KING BOLETE *Boletus edulis*



This large mushroom grows in association with conifer trees, especially Norway spruce, Hemlock and White Pine. It forms a symbiotic relationship with these trees and they both benefit. It has pores instead of gills under its cap and is also known as a Penny Bun.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 252

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LION'S MANE *Hericium erinaceus*



P
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Lion's mane grows on wounds in living hardwoods, particularly oaks and has a distinctive shape like a clump of spines. They may appear short as in these small sculptures or hang down long as in the larger sculpture in the case. They are white, spongy and have been used in many parts of the world for medicinal benefits.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 301

SMOOTH CHANTARELLE *Cantharellus lateritius*



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Vase-shaped and with a wavy cap upon maturity, these mycorrhizal fungi can be found under oak trees—often in abundance.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 134

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OLD MAN OF THE WOODS *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*



REDBELT *Fomitopsis pinicola*



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“Old Man” communicates with oaks and other deciduous trees through thread-like mycelium. As a nod to this relationship, the sculpture includes a fallen oak leaf. This is a type of bolete, with pores instead of gills under its cap.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 274

This shiny lacquered polypore is usually found on downed trees and stumps, but can also be parasitic on living trees causing brown rot. They are perennial and the yellowish/white bands and the black older areas are from previous years.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 202

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CAESAR'S DEATHCAP *Amanita jacksonii*



GIANT PUFFBALL *Calvatia gigantea*



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This widespread colorful mushroom looks like a bright egg coming out of a white sack (called a volva) under oaks and pines. It is interconnected with these woodland trees. The fruiting body takes on many forms and changes color as it matures. They can be vivid red or orange fading to more yellow.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 202

When mature, these look like soccer balls in the field. Once thought to be saprotrophic (feeding on decay) they are now believed to be mycorrhizal—however not with trees—possibly with certain types of grass. The fungus dries out, turns brown and releases clouds of spores.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 367

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BLUE STAIN *Chlorociboria aeruginascens*



Also known as Green Elf cup, this fungi's mycelium stains decaying wood a blue-green color. This evidence is more often seen than the tiny fruiting bodies of this saprobic species. Often found on oak logs this beautiful wood is prized for use in woodworking and marquetry. The sculpture includes another woodland favorite, the Red Eft.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 332

TURKEY TAIL *Trametes versicolor* & YELLOW WAXY CAPS *Hygrocybe flavescens*



These fungi perform two different roles in the forest. The Turkey Tail breaks down dead wood and is commonly found on stumps and fallen logs. Waxy Caps are known to form mutualistic relationships with plant roots, exchanging nutrients for sugars produced by the plant's photo synthesis.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 282, 140

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FLY AGARIC *Amanita muscaria*



Straight out of a fairy tale! The most infamous—and recognizable— toadstool of all, Fly Agaric comes in various shades of red, orange and yellow. It can be found near living trees where its mycelium has a symbiotic relationship with the tree roots. It is reported to attract flies. And then kill them.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 118

GREENGILL *Chlorophyllum molybdites*



This very widespread mushroom is often found in large fairy rings in suburban lawns. Other common names for it are Green-Spored Lepiota or the more menacing “The Vomiter”. The gills are actually white, but become stained with the green spores as they mature.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 110

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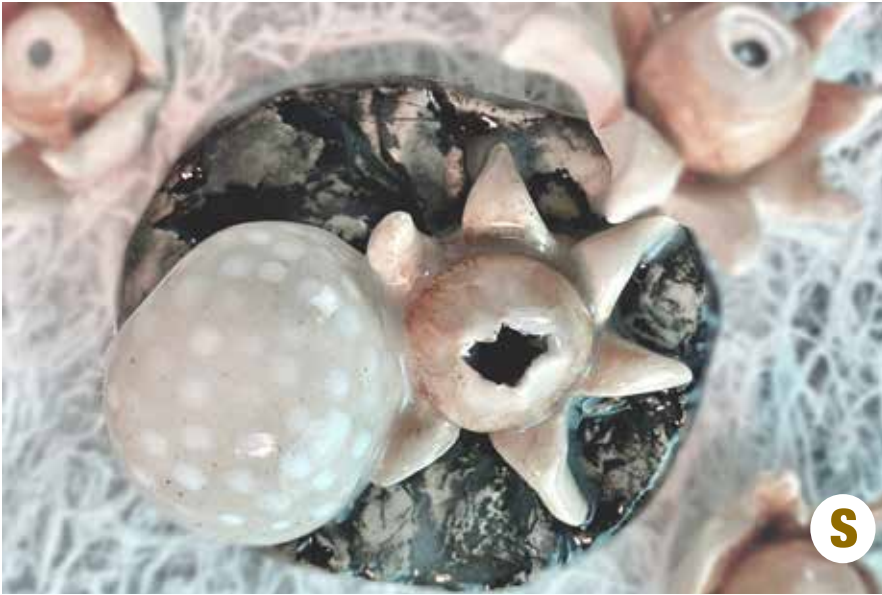
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DAISY EARTHSTAR *Geastrum floriforme*



S

SLIPPERY JACK *Suillus luteus*



M



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These tiny Earthstars are saprobes found near dead trees. They start out like a tiny puffball, then break open to reveal the “arms”. The rays react to moisture (hygroscopic) and close up in the dry weather to protect the spore sack only to open again when it rains.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 370

This fall mushroom is also called “Sticky Bun”. They are mycorrhizal and here in North America can be found under two-needle pines, like the Red Pines in the artist’s western New York yard. The cap is thick and sticky, the pores under the cap release cinnamon brown spores.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 254

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COLLARED PINWHEEL *Marasmius rotula*



Collared Pinwheels grow in an array of habitats, including woodlands and fields on dead deciduous wood and debris. Sometimes called the resurrection fungus, its revived by rain. The stems –so impossibly thin– for this ceramic sculpture are made of wire.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 64

BLACK MOREL *Morchella angusticeps*



These club-shaped mushrooms sometimes pop up near recently dead or dying trees. Old orchards are another good place to look.

They are an elusive favorite with mushroom hunters during their very short spring season. Tricky to predict, they don't always appear again where once found.

More information:
Peterson Field Guide, p. 348

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BIO

About the Artist | Wendy Bale
See more about her art practice at
WendyBaleArt1st.com

Instagram: @Wendy_Bale_Art1st
Facebook: Wendy Bale Art1st
YouTube: Wendy Bale
Linked In: Wendy Bale



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Wendy Bale is a multi-disciplinary artist living in Jamestown, New York. Primarily focusing on drawing and sculpture, her art is inspired by the natural beauty of the Northeast.

“Regardless the medium I’m using, my joy is to connect with the viewer through the mutual love of favorite subjects.”

Wendy is a artist member of Pearl City Clay House in Jamestown. She also is a member of Guild of American Papercutters, International Online Art Collective and the North Shore Arts Alliance. She is a former board member of Audubon Community Nature Center.

Wendy has a creative design background in fashion catalogs. She now focuses on her art full-time, inspired by her move to the region in 2014.

Sources used in researching this project include:

- The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben
- www.mushroomexpert.com
- Mushrooms of the Northeast: A Simple Guide to Common Mushrooms by Teresa Marrone and Walt Sturgeon .
- National Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Mushrooms by Gary Lincoff
- Peterson Field Guide To Mushrooms Of North America by Karl B. McKnight. Joseph R. Rohrer Kirsten McKnight Ward, Kent H. McKnight (*The common names vary widely, for the purpose of this document where possible the Peterson Field Guide as used as reference.*)