ALMINE RECH

Upside Down Zebra

Jun 28, 2025 — May 30, 2026 | The Watermill Center, NY, US

'Upside Down Zebra' explores the artistic value of children's imagination, its inherent role in cognitive development, and its profound influence on contemporary art. The exhibition will feature works from the Rhoda Kellogg International Child Art Collection alongside responses from contemporary artists. At a moment when self-expression is more vital than ever, 'Upside Down Zebra' offers a radical reexamination of artistic value and human cognition that prioritizes collaboration, spontaneity, and the untamed joy of creation.

Spanning six indoor galleries, 'Upside Down Zebra' features approximately 400 pieces of children's artwork from the Rhoda Kellogg International Child Art Collection, presented alongside works by over 35 contemporary artists who directly engage with Kellogg's archive. Through a wide range of approaches, these artists explore themes of unfiltered spontaneity, echoing ideas found in Kellogg's research and collection. By curating historical pieces in dialogue with present-day responses, Upside Down Zebra highlights the enduring role of artistic play – celebrating the drip, smear, scribble, and open gesture as fundamental forms of creative expression across generations.

Two major outdoor installations will be unveiled on Saturday, July 26 during The Watermill Center's Annual Summer Benefit: *ABETARE* (2024) by Petrit Halilaj, originally commissioned for The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Roof Garden Commission, and *SUNRISE.East* (2005) by Ugo Rondinone. Installed across The Watermill Center's grounds, both works will be accessible to the public from dawn to dusk and will remain on view through spring 2026. This long-term exhibition reflects the Center's ongoing commitment to presenting visionary contemporary art in conversation with its unique natural setting.

'Upside Down Zebra' is supported by Cadogan Tate, Loewe, Phillips, Duggal, Paul J Herman, The Herget Family Charitable Foundation, Phoebe Hearst Elementary School Foundation & the Suffolk County Department of Economic Development.

A series of talks, workshops, and interactive activities designed for audiences of all ages will occur throughout the exhibition's run, furthering its mission to elevate and explore the significance of children's art.