

PROJECT CONCEPT :

UNSPUN: A CELEBRATION OF SILKWORMS, CYCLES AND FAMILY STORIES

UNSPUN takes the viewer on a journey exploring the ancient practice of Sericulture, raising silkworms and harvesting their cocoons for the production of silk textiles, biotechnologies and more. It is a simple practice with luxurious results. It features the humble *Bombyx mori* (silkworm moth) and its preferred food, the Mulberry (*Morus* spp.) This installation centers the mulberry, the silkworm and their cocoons. It celebrates their relationship to each other, the humans who cultivate them and the magic of their output spun from a single silk thread.

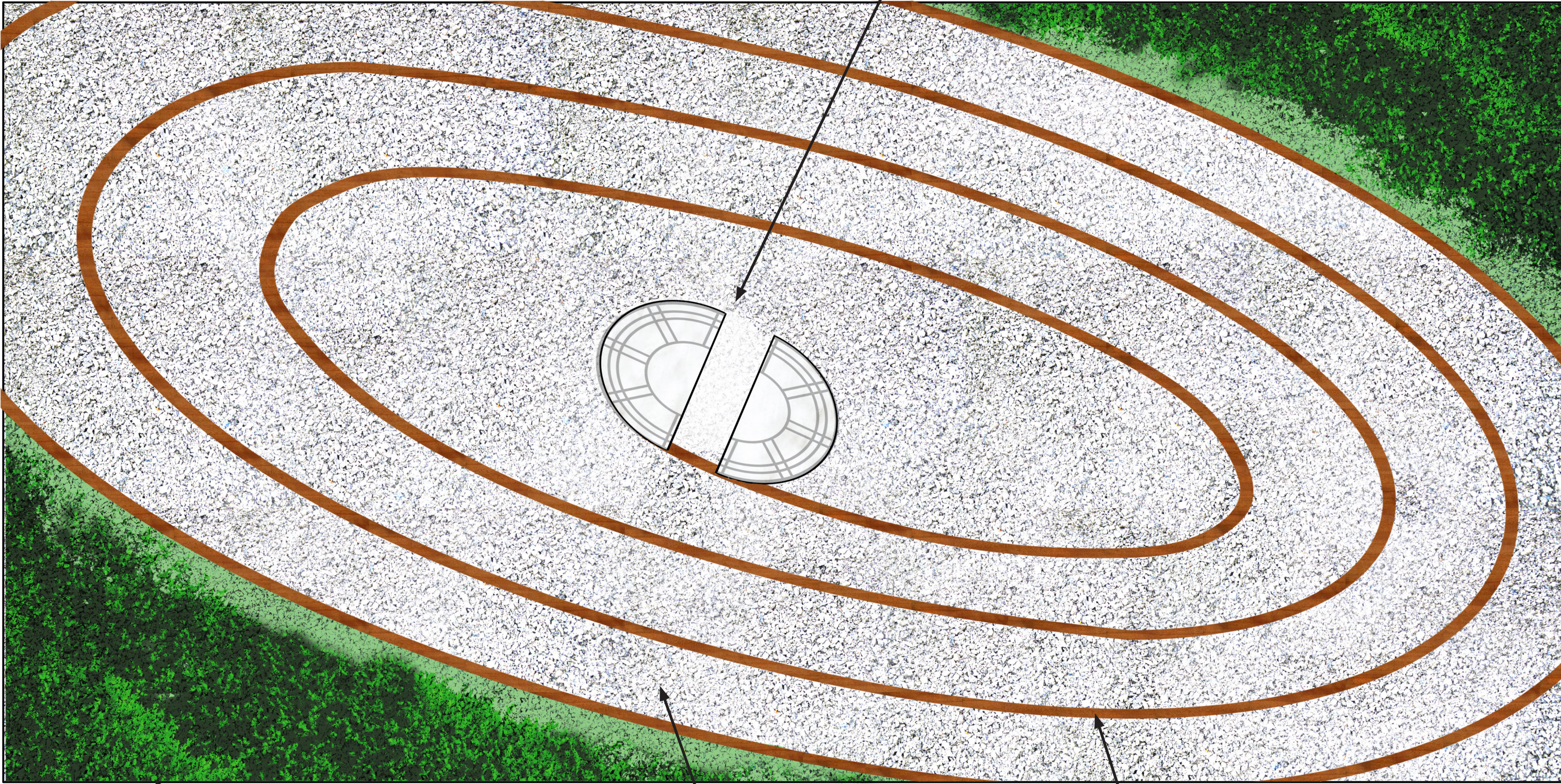
The installation takes us on a journey. Mulberry plants and native floodplain perennials flank the outsides of the labyrinth (growth.) The visitor follows a stone fines labyrinth delineated by Mulberry wood on the groundplane, and woven thread above (incubation.) The thread continues to the center of the site, where a large, 10' high, split cocoon is sited (flight.) The visitor continues along the path towards the cocoon center and enters into it surrounded by the structure.

The cocoon itself is made of masses of silk, woven together around a metal and wood frame to create an enclosure. Inside two 4' tall demonstration areas, enclosed in wire mesh, flank the insides of each half-cocoon. Here, silkworms, in the midst of their life cycle, munch on mulberry plants within the enclosures. Ideally, this process will continue; the insects will mate and continue producing silk cocoons throughout the duration of the season. The installation itself is a living, growing object. The mulberry provides dye for the silk and wood for the labyrinth. Signage near the mulberry patches explain the lifecycle of the silkworm, the history and process of growing and harvesting silkworms for their silk, and the artist's historical family ties to sericulture.

As the visitor leaves the cocoon, the journey is reversed. they follow the silk "thread" as it spins out from the cocoon much like the harvesting of silk involves the teasing out a single thread from the cocoon that has protected the silkworm and produced prized silk during its transformation into moth.

UNSPUN: LAYOUT PLAN
SCALE 1:50

SILK COCOON SCULPTURE +
DEMONSTRATION GARDEN



MULBERRY BUSHES
WITH HERBACEOUS
LAYER IN FRONT

STONE FINES/
DECOMPOSED GRANITE

WOVEN SILK THREAD
LABRINTH ABOVE
MULBERRY WOOD PLANK

UNSPUN: SUGGESTED PLANT LIST

**EXACT SPECIES TO BE DETERMINED BASED ON SITE

SHRUBS:

Morus rubra, RED MULBERRY

*(North American native as far north as Southern Ontario), selected because *Morus alba*, WHITE MULBERRY can be invasive.

GRASSES:

Carex × quebecensis, QUEBEC SEDGE

Panicum virgatum, SWITCHGRASS

Deschampsia cespitosa, TUFTED HAIRGRASS

Avenella flexuosa, WAVY HAIRGRASS

PERENNIALS:

Chelone glabra, WHITE TURTLEHEAD

Salvia nemorosa, WOODLAND SAGE





