

"Ark and Surroundings", a comprehensive art project that includes large art installation, public interactive soundwalks and performances in collaboration with The Lab art organization and supported by the San Francisco Maritime Museum and MEDIANE Art Group.

Building on the fears associated with environmental degradation, water pollution, and global warming, "Ark and Surroundings" will posit ships and bridges as a post apocalyptic livable structures and commercial spaces.

The main installation will recreate a museum environment featuring a large scale architectural model of the Bay Bridge, model ships, a custom-built sailboat, and mixed-media artworks and videos. The constructed model ships and bridge span, will be created with metal designed in CAD, and cut with a CNC machine, are inspired by the Oakland docks, the SF Oakland Bay and the future abandoned span of the Oakland Bay bridge. Using my wooden boat building skills learned partly while volunteering for San Francisco's wooden boat museum, I will also custom-build a life-size sailboat which will be a version of a post apocalyptic livable water structure where viewers are invited to board and experience the new world with sights and sounds.

Surrounding the models are mixed-media artworks that feature manipulated photos taken from around the waterways of the Bay and revised into imaginary environments and structures for education, home, community, commerce and spirituality. The images will be printed on transparency, then placed on architecture grid paper, and drawn on, both digitally and with pen and ink. Accompanying the images and the sculptures are sound tracks made from field recordings and original electronic music inspired by the ambient sound within the San Francisco Bay. Interviews of dock workers, architects, environmentalists, merchant marines, freighter ship captains, and other experts related to the subject of livable structures on water will be filmed to be displayed in within the environment.

Inspired by the museum model and its outreach programs that invite the public to explore of current and historical worlds, this installation will be a 'museum' of future artifacts and vision of survival, growth, and change with outreach programs that include guided tours, sound walks, and other educational talks and presentations. The idea of rebuilding after a societal collapse will create a vibrant conversation between a current dystopia and the hope of an utopian future. Companion to the installation will be performances in the environment every weekend of the exhibition with invited musicians exploring the stories and myths of the new world. Interactive soundwalks and tours in and around the Maritime Museum, the coasts of the bay, as well as the shipping docks, that will mix history of the Bay with the subjects and themes relating to the "Ark and Surroundings."

The Lab will collaborate in the project providing the infrastructure resources and the exhibition and performance space to present 'Ark and Surroundings' to the Bay Area public. As one of the most innovative spaces in California supporting the development and presentation of new visual, performing, media, sonic and literary art, The Lab assists artists in the creation of new work and showcase work that crosses boundaries, encourages evolving artistic and social dialogue between artists and audiences, and develops the culture and community of the San Francisco Bay Area.

The San Francisco Maritime Museum is supporting the project providing their invaluable resource of historical documents, artifacts, and educational displays on the history and the economics surrounding the waterways in San Francisco and Oakland.

The project is set to premiere at MEDIATE's Soundwave Biennial 6, San Francisco's Innovative Art and Music Festival in the summer of 2014. The season's festival theme is Water, and 'Ark and Surroundings' will be a featured element in the three-

month long festival happening all across San Francisco.

This project is an ideal partnership with The Lab, one of the foremost presenters of experimental art in the United States that will expand my work to new audiences and The Lab's programming efforts into the community with partnerships and events with the Maritime Museum and MEDiate Art Group's acclaimed Soundwave Biennial. It is an appropriate time to manifest 'Ark' with new energy and focus on the Bay's waterways including The Bay Lights', America's Cup, opening of the new Bay Bridge and global warming and environmental concerns.

My current work explores the idea that nature engenders architecture which in turn influences how we see and relate to the natural world. Within this dynamic conversation I explore the way community structures have been affected by the interfusion of architecture, space and nature. Most recently I have been working on an installation project centered on Canyon Oakland, an off the grid community located near Montclair. To begin I look at the geographic and social region thematically, using an interdisciplinary process developed during past Extraordinary Forest projects. This way of working across a range of artistic mediums and processes is able to best synthesize the complex social and psychological realities that are part memory, personal history, and community.

'Ark and Surroundings' follows a similar path of exploration, mediums, and craft that I have been developing since my artist-in-residence at the Headlands Center for the Arts in 2004. I create installations, digital photographs, drawings, paintings, sound and video work and performances. The subject matter often focuses on nonlinear narratives set in and around the landscape in which I live and work; in other words, my home and neighborhood. My work also engages the mythical and fantastic as a means to question what is familiar. To this end, I appropriate narrative and thematic elements from literature and

historical record. Elfin spirits, conspiracy theories, mythical civilizations, and human attempts at achieving utopia are some examples.