

Life Is But A Dream

Paula Rondon

With Knowing the voice said, "If you build it, he will come," and in Time the son of the baseball player understood his own purpose.

I often think about art objects as projections of the things we want—and I want to be a sailor. I like to imagine the act of making as a chance moment of cosmic alignment, an instance of real significance. My newest project "If You Build It, It Will Come" focuses on understanding my own material desires and purpose as a builder. These pieces function under the pretense that the act of creating a version of the thing, will in Time produce the real thing that is desired.

In the last year, I've been surveying specific portions of the Brooklyn waterside and collecting the pieces of Styrofoam, tarp, and buoy that are pushed ashore. Many of my materials are salvaged debris from the East River and other items from maritime culture. It's important to me that my means of collecting these materials operate within the same fundamental order of chance and luck that the mythical unknown of my body of work suggests as its *modus operandi*.

This body of work began with small sculptural boat studies. The resulting objects were distorted and abstract. Each iteration of this study was like someone's idea of a boat, so that in their roughness they avoided any specificity that could make them real—so that I wouldn't risk jinxing myself.

Thinking about my own personal superstitions, I struggle with the hilarity of belief—the way people attach meaning to objects and behaviors. Like, it's bad luck to bring bananas onboard a fishing boat. "No women on board" was a common sailor's superstition. Superstitions about luck seem to govern the whole tradition.

In making, I reckon with my desire to build and the self-satisfying presumption of discovery that always accompanies the creation of the thing. With awe and self-mockery, my current project seeks to understand the unanswerable constitution of chance and purpose, to pretend to teach myself something about Time and Knowing.

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