FLOE: A CLIMATE OF RISK

THE FICTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF STEPHEN TALASNIK

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 – FEBRUARY 18, 2024
**FLOE** tells the story of a fictitious shipwreck, carried to Philadelphia by the glacier that buried it. As global temperatures warmed, the glacier melted and surrendered the ship’s remains, which were discovered by mischievous local children on an illicit jaunt about the city. The archaeological remains and reconstructions are presented in this exhibition, alongside a sculptural representation of the ice floe that carried the ship to its final resting place.

While exploring **FLOE**, investigate the ship’s artifacts in the **Debris Fields**; wander in the shadows of the **Glacier**; trace its path in the **Glacial Mapping** mural; study the **Studio Sculptures** constructed to reflect imaginings of “glacial architecture”; and pass time reading and reflecting in **The Closet of Curiosities**, which houses works from the Museum’s permanent collection selected by Talasnik to echo the stories told in **FLOE**.

While data may facilitate an understanding of the impact of climate change through numbers—of lives lost or property destroyed—the disruption of community is far more difficult to quantify. Through this exhibition, Talasnik’s imaginative story—illustrated in wood, bamboo, and composite materials—will help us comprehend these changes and their cause and effect through nautical architecture, relics, antiquities, and mythmaking.

Curator: Jennifer-Navva Milliken
Manager Of Exhibitions: Amrut Mishra, Ph.D.

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**Fissure** (detail), 2018–23. Painted basswood with metallic pigment, 25 x 46 x 22
Stephen Talasnik has built an artistic career by exploring the links between drawing and building. His work is site-specific, occupying a scale that blurs the line between sculpture and architecture. Trained as an architect but known worldwide for his organic structures installed in challenging natural settings, Talasnik creates work informed by time travel and “fictional function,” as well as the infrastructure of the urban environment.

Originally from Philadelphia, he is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. After completing his graduate study at Tyler, he spent 15 years commuting between NYC and Southeast Asia, where a fascination with hand building reemerged through his study of the art of bamboo construction.

He has created site-specific installations for Storm King Art Center, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and Manito, the Russel Wright House in Garrison, NY, as well as the Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana, Architektur Galerie Berlin, and the Curitiba Biennale at the Oscar Niemeyer Museum in Brazil. His drawings are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY); The Albertina (Vienna); Centre Pompidou (Paris); National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); Philadelphia Academy of Fine Art (PAFA); the Woodmere Art Museum (Philadelphia); and the Kupferstichkabinett (Berlin).

“I am a self-taught engineer who merges traditional drawing and sculpture with engineering and architecture; hence a “fictional engineer.” More comfortable in the world of visionary or paper architecture than in traditional painting and sculpture. My knowledge of engineering and architecture is the byproduct of curiosity and conviction; it is not rooted in academia. I rely on ‘homemade math,’ no digital programs, only intuition and a love of making things by hand.”
PROGRAMS AND EVENTS
Please check our website and social media for upcoming programs and events.

TOURS
Guided group tours of the exhibition and collection are $5 per person, lasting 45-60 minutes, and require a minimum of 10 guests. Please book your group tour one month in advance at info@museumforartinwood.org.

We offer free 15-minute mini tours. Perfect for a lunch break, a Saturday stroll, or a neighborhood excursion!

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Cover:

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