

LIGHTHOUSE WORKS



Image courtesy the artist and Someday, New York. Photo: Merik Goma.

Rachelle Dang: *Chorus*

Lighthouse Works' 10th Public Art Commission

On View: May 28, 2023 - December 2, 2023

Reception, Champagne & Oysters: Sunday, May 28, 2023, 5-7 PM

Public Art Talk: Thursday, August 10, 2023, 4-6 PM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lighthouse Works is pleased to present *Chorus*, a site-specific sculpture by artist **Rachelle Dang**, on view at Silver Eel Cove, Fishers Island, from May-December 2023. *Chorus* takes inspiration from the rhizomatic root structure of beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*) found on Fishers Island, and the interconnected netting of roots that stabilizes the dune.

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Known for her intricately layered installations that fuse in-depth research of colonial exploitation and propagation of botanicals with deftly made objects and images, Dang was inspired by the Island's ecology to imagine a collective world above and beneath the dune as the complex performance of an ecosystem with myriad species and actors.

In her statement, Dang writes: "These thoughts led me to the idea of singers and actors under a tapestry of roots. My project for Lighthouse Works comprises a rhizomatic curtain, a proscenium resembling the silhouette of a dune or cloud, and a stage for interspecies symbiosis. The sculpture connects sky, land, and ocean with a fluidity that emerged from my large-scale ink drawings, which I created with a 3ft brush on a roll of rosin paper, directly on the floor. The height of the sculpture is true to life: beach grass roots can extend several meters below the surface of the dune."

To create the work, Dang photographed and digitally collaged her ink drawings to resemble an interconnected web, and visualized her ideas for the sculpture by cutting and assembling paper shapes with scissors. The fabrication from aluminum sheet, by Versteeg Art Fabricators, who collaborated with Dang and Lighthouse Works to produce this work, extends the magic of Dang's hand-cut paper construction at giant size. Dang's choice of a bright yellow powder-coated finish evokes sunshine and the brightness of the sand dunes.

Immersed in the light, salt air, and sea spray of Silver Eel Cove, *Chorus* hints at a world of relations: the stage is activated throughout the day with cast shadows, and visitors are invited to walk onto the platform, take a role, and determine their own experience of the sculpture within the surrounding environment.

Public Programs

- An opening reception will be held on Sunday, May 28, 2023 from 5-7 pm.
- On Thursday August 10, from 4-6 pm, Lighthouse Works will host a Public Art talk, moderated by **Jess Wilcox** (former Curator & Director of Exhibitions at Socrates Sculpture Park, NY) and featuring **Rachelle Dang** alongside past public artists **Carla Edwards, Antone Könst, and Gabriela Salazar**.

About the artist

Rachelle Dang (b. Honolulu, HI) is a New York-based artist and educator. She is Critic at Yale School of Art, a current artist resident at the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council Workspace (2022-23), and a recent artist fellow at the Museum of Arts and Design (2022). Dang's work has been exhibited at venues including Cornell University, Ithaca (2022); Someday, New York (2021 & 2022); Casey Kaplan, New York (2021); Fergus McCaffrey, St. Barth and New York (2021 & 2019); A.I.R. Gallery, Brooklyn (2020); Smack Mellon, Brooklyn (2019-2020); Lesley Heller, New York (2019); Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City (2019); Haverford College Art Galleries, Philadelphia (2019); Hawaii Pacific University, Kaneohe (2013) and the Honolulu Museum of Art, Hawaii (2011 Biennial). Prior artist residencies include Yaddo, Shandaken: Storm King Art Center, the Smack Mellon Artist Studio Program, and Cooper Union. Dang received her MFA from Hunter College, CUNY, and her BA from Wellesley College.

About Lighthouse Works

Lighthouse Works connects artists, writers, choreographers and composers to Fishers Island, supports the development of their work, and creates opportunities for them to share it with our community.

Contacts

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