

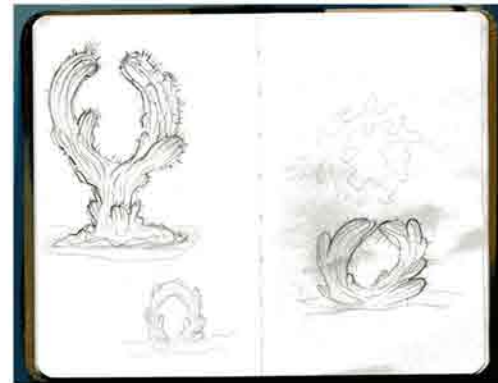
On **Dread Scott & Jenny Polak's** *Island of Outmoded and Failed Social Ideas*, people will see firsthand the absurdity of capitalism and religion. It is a type of quarantine-island for today's harmful dominant ideas. Sholette's interpreted the idea with the once-futuristic Tylon and *Perisphere* from the 1939 World's Fair as ruined structures standing alone on a wind and waves located not far from the Queens Museum of Art. *Dread Scott first received national attention in 1989 when his art became the center of controversy over its use of the American flag. President George W. Bush Senior declared his artwork "disgraceful."* Jenny Polak is an interdisciplinary artist focused on issues of migration, and the narratives of undocumented and stateless people.



Dara Greenwald wrote that the *Island of Healing and Restfulness* is "a healing place for people without means to really rest, where quality wholesome food being prepared and served, to recover from illness and accidents." For Dara's island Sholette created a miniature memorial made of flowers strewn into the waters of Turtle Cove near City Island in the Bronx. Dara Greenwald died on January 9th, 2012 at the age of 40, and did not live to see this project completed. Turtle Cove is a quiet space filled with water birds and spectacular vistas. It is unlike any other part of New York City. *Dara Greenwald (1972-2012) engaged in experimental forms of media, writing, and social art activism. She frequently collaborated with her partner, the artist Josh MacPhee.*



"Norica" means the universe. Artist **Libertad Guerra's** *Nuyorica* (derived from the term Noricua) *Island* is a land of no money. The island is about our desire for understanding, for human contact and for mutual borders consisting of none. Sholette created a giant hoop structure made of Prickly Pear and Barrel Cactus – both indigenous to Puerto Rico—and located it at Maspeth Creek in Queens, the geographic center of New York City. *Libertad Guerra is a co-founder of Spanic Attack, a South Bronx-based multi-arts collective.*



Activist, artist and writer **Brett Bloom** wrote to Sholette, "Can you make a tower for the 11 million people of New York to be moved, so all the land can be given back to the native folks who used to live there?" In response, Sholette created *Island of the Eleven-Million Person Tower*, an enormous, unfinished skyscraper jutting up from Jamaica Bay. It grows higher as the population of the city also rises. *Brett Bloom is an artist, activist, writer, and co-founder of the Chicago-based art group Temporary Services and the Copenhagen-based group Learning Site.*



Marisa Jahn's *Snuggle Island's* chief characteristic is its ability to huddle next to other islands. It scoots around and finds a little cove or a little nook where it can get up close. Sometimes Snuggle Island and its companion grow so close they are said to grow *into* each other. When it travels to the next island, an indentation remains behind. Sholette created a soft, hand-stitched island that fits snugly into the side of Jamaica Bay. *Marisa Jahn is an artist, writer, and community organizer whose practice focuses on innovative forms of social change through grassroots politics.*



Rasha Salti wrote "*Palestine as metaphor* proposes Palestine as a mirror of the world: the subject of a historic miscarriage of justice and the dignified struggle for reversing that injustice." She identified such qualities of the vanquished, the expelled, the silenced, among the habitants of the New York City. "Take the N, R, or J subway, and the train's cars rattle in the underbelly of the city, transporting lonely people across town with you in the middle of them." Sholette transformed this metaphor of loneliness and national displacement into a magical realist image of subway cars speeding through The Narrows beneath the Verrazano Bridge towards the Statue of Liberty. *Rasha Salti is an independent film and visual arts curator and writer who lives and works in Beirut, Lebanon.*



Ann Messner's *Floating Garden Island* is a modular system of barges. Inspired by Robert Smithson's *Floating Island* (1970), it is intended as an alternative to the Vernon C. Bain Correctional Center, an 800-person prison barge that is now operated by the City of New York. Like a floating mini-city, the bubble-covered ecosystem is surrounded by four service barges and connected by enormous walkways and ladders, and is temporarily parked directly off of Rikers Island. *Ann Messner is an artist whose work is both social and political in intention.*



Every year on **Nato Thompson's** *Oscar Island*, a windswept, weathered island with one docking site and an ancient, crumbling amphitheater at its center, the thirty richest and the thirty poorest inhabitants of New York City must come together for the production of New York's favorite annual ritual: the production and performance of that year's Oscar-winning film in theatrical form. A hybrid of Easter Island figures, Alberto Giacometti's sculpture, and Oscar statuettes are scattered about as if waiting for participants to arrive. *Nato Thompson is Chief Curator of Creative Time and writer who focuses on social and politically engaged public artworks.*



Aaron Gach/Center for Tactical Magic imagined an invisible island that on the surface creates a gigantic, swirling whirlpool. Sholette placed the whirlpool that hides the *Island of Light/Island of Illusion* just off the coast of Coney Island, the home of Dreamland. *Aaron Gach/Center for Tactical Magic is an artist-run project that focuses on positive social transformation.*



The real Saadiyat Island is a desert island directly off the coast of Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) where the Louvre and Guggenheim are developing new museums using the labor of thousands of "guest workers" from nearby South Asian countries. Now imagine a previously uncharted island materializing off Pier 13 in the East River. **Hana Shams Ahmed's** small island is also filled with precarious construction workers who labor in a special, extra-judicial cultural empowerment zone established in response to the art market crash of 2012. Much like the Abu Dhabi desert work-site, this *Saadiyat Island* is covered in cranes and other construction equipment. *Hana Shams Ahmed is a journalist and human rights activist who lives and works in Bangladesh.*



Larry Bogad, an author and performer, envisioned *Dunkin Island* as a "small island off of Battery Park in close proximity to Wall Street with a round bull's-eye target in its center. When the target is hit, the entire mini-landmass submerges under water. Sholette fabricated a lone structure—a replica of the New York Stock Exchange—pictured half-submerged in the bay. *Larry Bogad is an author and performer who writes, performs, and collaborates with politically and economically engaged performance art groups.*

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Sholette placed three of artist **Marc Fischer's** *Archive Barges* that make private collections of all nature accessible to the public in the Hudson River just off Times Square. It is expected that as more and more materials are accumulated, this floating archive will become an entire fleet. *Marc Fischer is a co-founder of Temporary Services and runs Public Collectors.*

Moviedrome: the Island on the Edge of Forever is an homage to two visionary artists of the mid-20th century: the media artist Stan Van der Beek and science fiction writer Harlan Ellison. Filmmaker **Jeffrey Skoller's** island is a giant floating geodesic dome whose interior is a 360° movie projection screen. The screen is a time portal where visitors to the island can alter the course of history, representing the hope that cinema can create a new world-picture of human aspiration and possibility. Sholette's interpretation places the psychedelic *Moviedrome* atop a derelict off-shore oil platform located in the East River near the old Astoria Movie Studios in Queens.

Karl Lorac/THEMM's *Ice Island* was formed when a large, white, flying square crashed and melted down into the surface. A group of arctic researchers are trying to trace the size and shape of the half-visible object by spreading out over its frozen surface. Sholette placed *Suprematist Island* in the Hudson River off of Harlem. *Karl Lorac is a member of the New York-based artists' group known as THEMM.*

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gregory Sholette is a New York-based artist, writer, and founding member of the artists' collectives *Political Art Documentation/Distribution* (PAD/D: 1980-1988), and *REPOhistory* (1989-2000). A graduate of The Cooper Union (B.F.A., 1979), The University of California, San Diego (M.F.A., 1995), and the Whitney Independent Studies Program in Critical Theory. Sholette is an Assistant Professor of Sculpture at Queens College.



Fifteen Islands for Robert Moses



Special thanks to Julius Schorzman for use of this excellent map of NYC