



**TAUBA AUERBACH 'DAZZLES'
HISTORIC FIREBOAT JOHN J. HARVEY
IN NEW YORK HARBOR, LAUNCHING JULY 1**

**CO-COMMISSIONED BY PUBLIC ART FUND AND 14-18 NOW
EXHIBITION COINCIDES WITH
END OF WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL, NOVEMBER 11, 2018**

Presenting Sponsor Bloomberg Philanthropies



Tauba Auerbach: Flow Separation

Co-commissioned by Public Art Fund and 14-18 NOW

July 1, 2018 – May 12, 2019

Fireboat *John J. Harvey*

New York Harbor:

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 6; Hudson River Park's Pier 25 and Pier 66a

June 27, 2018, NEW YORK, NY— Starting July 1, **Public Art Fund and 14-18 NOW** will present ***Flow Separation***, a new exhibition by New York-based artist **Tauba Auerbach** in which the historic **Fireboat *John J. Harvey*** will be painted in a contemporary 'dazzle camouflage' pattern. Throughout the summer and fall, the dazzled fireboat, currently docked at Pier 66a in Hudson River Park, will be anchored at various docks around New York Harbor and on weekends will offer free, timed trips for the public, continuing *John J. Harvey's* 18-year tradition since her retirement as a working fireboat. Auerbach's work draws inspiration from the unlikely vibrant camouflage designs painted on ships that crossed the Atlantic during World War I. Developed by British painter Norman Wilkinson, the designs were characterized by bold, high-

contrast patterns that would distort the ships, confusing enemy submarines tracking their distance, direction and speed. Taking cues from both animal camouflage and avant-garde movements such as Cubism, Futurism and Vorticism, the geometric forms inspired generations of abstract artists that followed. For Auerbach's contemporary design, the exterior of the fireboat will be painted with two patterns that the artist generated through the intricate process of marbling paper. Treating this decorative art as a visualization of the physics of "fluid dynamics," Auerbach's dazzle incorporates the movement and behavior of water into its design. Maintaining the *John J. Harvey's* red and white palette, *Flow Separation* will foreground the history of dazzle's emphasis on confusing as opposed to hiding. This is Auerbach's first major public art commission and the first time Public Art Fund has partnered with a boat to realize a new exhibition.

The work is **co-commissioned by Public Art Fund**, New York City's leading presenter of dynamic outdoor art free of charge to the public, and **14-18 NOW**, the United Kingdom's award-winning public arts program commemorating the centenary of World War I. Since 2014, 14-18 NOW has commissioned new work by more than 200 leading contemporary artists across all art forms, including the presentation of four Dazzle Ships throughout the U.K. Auerbach's dazzled vessel is the first U.S.-based ship and the final vessel in the series before the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on November 11, 2018.

"We are thrilled to be working with 14-18 NOW to bring a contemporary Dazzle Ship to New York Harbor, an artwork that blends this fascinating history of painterly abstraction and technology, together with innovation and design," **says Public Art Fund Adjunct Curator Emma Enderby**. "The various techniques that Auerbach experiments with as a painter and designer — often exploring perception and dimensionality — make her the ideal artist to dazzle the historic Fireboat *John J. Harvey* with her conceptual and visual interpretation."

Jenny Waldman, CBE, Director of 14-18 NOW, said, "14-18 NOW was established in the conviction that contemporary artists can open new perspectives not only on the present, but also the past. Starting in 2014, with the centenary of the beginning of World War I, our arts commissions have connected millions of people in the U.K. with the magnitude and horror of the Great War, and how this epochal conflict continues to affect so much in our lives today. Now, as we approach the centenary of the Armistice, we are proud to bring a roster of commissions to the United States, beginning with Tauba Auerbach's brilliant addition to our ongoing series of Dazzle Ships. We are deeply grateful to our co-commissioner Public Art Fund, and to Bloomberg Philanthropies for making it possible to offer this extraordinary experience to New Yorkers and their visitors from around the world."

Tauba Auerbach works across various mediums including painting, photography, sculpture, language and more, playing with material, form, color, perception, typography, and systems. As a former sign painter, she has an enduring interest in the histories, traditions, and technologies of painting, continuing to use them in new ways. Over the past five years, she has investigated ornamental archetypes and has observed and catalogued these designs in pre-historic paintings, architecture, and textiles, as well as in snapshots of dynamic motion, in the form of rivers and on the skeletons of coral. With *Flow Separation*, Auerbach expands on this interest, drawing inspiration from the rhythmic designs found in the wake patterns left behind objects moving through water. Auerbach created the design through the laborious and gestural process of marbling — floating inks on a fluid bath and dragging various combs through them before transferring them on to paper — resulting in a design that has innumerable unique variables. Auerbach will densely and meticulously paint the surfaces of the Fireboat *John J. Harvey* including the deck, hull, and doors with two red and white marbled patterns flowing in opposite directions, creating a one-of-a-kind, dynamic motif.

Artist, Tauba Auerbach said, "With *Flow Separation*, I didn't want to ignore the *John J. Harvey's* identity, so I took the boat's usual paint job and scrambled it. Dragged a comb through it. The palette also exaggerates the fact that "dazzle" was more about confusing and outsmarting, than about hiding. I like those instances where cleverness is an antidote to brute force."

Visitors will be able to experience the new commission in a number of ways across the city. From July through late September, it will be docked at two locations: **Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 6** and **Hudson River Park's Pier 25**. On weekends, the public will be able to board the boat to experience the dazzled design up close, and free timed trips around different parts of New York Harbor from each location will be offered, creating a special experience with a contemporary artwork and historic vessel. Auerbach's commission will also participate in iconic events throughout the season, including the annual New York City Tugboat Race on September 2, and will travel north up the Hudson River to meet a historical dazzle ship in Albany, NY. During the winter and spring months, the boat will be docked at its home location at **Hudson River Park's Pier 66a in Chelsea** and will act as a floating sculpture that the public may view from land or water. Visitors will be able to reserve tickets starting June 25. **For more information about locations and to reserve tickets, visit PublicArtFund.org.**

Patricia E. Harris, CEO of Bloomberg Philanthropies, a major sponsor of the series and longtime supporter of Public Art Fund, said, "We believe that everyone should have the opportunity to access the arts, and are thrilled to be able to support Public Art Fund and 14-18 NOW on this historic and ambitious exhibition. Public art projects such as *Flow Separation* contribute to a city's vitality, identity, and quality of life, while also bringing people from all backgrounds together through shared experiences. Tauba Auerbach's exhibition will transform New York's urban waterways, allowing communities to experience familiar places in exciting and new ways."

The exhibition is curated by Public Art Fund Adjunct Curator Emma Enderby.

Flow Separation is co-commissioned by Public Art Fund and 14-18 NOW: WWI Centenary Art Commissions, part of the Dazzle Ship series co-commissioned with Liverpool Biennial and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies.



@publicartfund #DazzleShips #FlowSeparation

VISITING THE EXHIBITION

Dates: July 1, 2018 – May 12, 2019

Locations:

Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 6: July 1 – August 12

Hudson River Park's Pier 25: August 13 – September 23

Hudson River Park's Pier 66a (The Frying Pan): September 24, 2018 – May 12, 2019

Boat Trips & Tours:

Boat trips will take place July 14 – September 23, 2018 on Saturdays and Sundays and last 45-60 minutes; they will start and end at the same location. The capacity of each trip is 80 people, and tickets will be released free of charge to all members of the public at PublicArtFund.org and Fireboat.org starting in mid-June. Free reservations are first come, first served.

The public will also be able to board the boat on weekends to experience the full dazzled design and explore this historic vessel. *Flow Separation* will be viewable from land seven days a week.

Saturdays

On board visiting hours 12:00-4:00pm

Boat trips: 4:30-5:30pm and 6:00-7:00pm

Sundays

Boat trips: 12:00-1:00pm and 1:30-2:30pm

On board visiting hours: 3:00-7:00pm

A number of **additional trips** will be offered **on weekdays throughout the summer and early fall** and **will be posted at PublicArtFund.org and Fireboat.org**. Please check the calendars on each site, and follow [@PublicArtFund](https://twitter.com/PublicArtFund) on Twitter for updates.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Tauba Auerbach (b. 1981 in Berkeley, CA) has exhibited internationally in important one-person exhibitions such as *The New Ambidextrous Universe* (2014) at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London, and *Tetrachromat* (2011) that opened at Bergen Kunsthall, Norway, and traveled to Malmö Konsthall, Sweden, and Wiels Contemporary Art Center, Brussels. Her work has also been exhibited in a number of major museum shows, notably *INDUCTION: Tauba Auerbach and Éliane Radigue* at MOCA Cleveland (2018); *Reciprocal Score: Tauba Auerbach + Charlotte Posenenske* at Indipendenza Studio, Rome, Italy (2015); *DECORUM: Carpets and tapestries by artists* at the Musée d'Art Moderne, Paris, France (2014-15); *Lifelike* at The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2012); *The Indiscipline of Painting* at Tate St. Ives, Cornwall, England (2011-12); the 2010 Whitney Biennial; *Greater New York* at MoMA PS1, New York (2010); and *Younger Than Jesus* at the New Museum, New York (2009). In 2011 she received the Smithsonian Artist Research Fellowship Award. She earned a BA in Visual Art from Stanford University in 2003. Tauba Auerbach is represented by Paula Cooper Gallery, New York.

ABOUT FIREBOAT JOHN J. HARVEY

The historic Fireboat *John J. Harvey* launched in 1931 and served New York Harbor until it was retired in 1994. The boat then became a national treasure on September 11, 2001 when the boat's crew pumped water for 80 hours and evacuated people from Lower Manhattan. Today, the fireboat is overseen by a nonprofit organization that raises awareness about the importance of historic vessels and offers public access to the harbor and training in new skills, while preserving an important piece of New York City history. Fireboats similar to the *John J. Harvey* played an integral role during World War I as they were used to guide Navy vessels, including ships that were dazzled, out of New York Harbor. To realize Auerbach's new commission, the exterior surface of *John J. Harvey* is being restored, stripping it of its decades-worth of chipped paint and rust, and recoating with layers of fresh paint, ensuring that it will endure for decades to come. Following the exhibition, the fireboat will be repainted in its original, historic paint configuration.

ABOUT PUBLIC ART FUND

As the leader in its field, Public Art Fund brings dynamic contemporary art to a broad audience in New York City and beyond by mounting ambitious free exhibitions of international scope and impact that offer the public powerful experiences with art and the urban environment.

Also on view, *Yinka Shonibare MBE: Wind Sculpture (SG) I* at Central Park and *Anselm Kiefer: Uraeus* at Rockefeller Center.

Upcoming exhibitions include *Erwin Wurm: Hot Dog Bus* at Brooklyn Bridge Park and *B. Wurtz: Kitchen Trees* at City Hall Park.

ABOUT 14-18 NOW

14-18 NOW is a program of extraordinary arts experiences connecting people with the First World War, as part of the U.K.'s official centenary commemorations. Since 2014 it has commissioned over 200 contemporary artists across all art forms from 35 countries, including William Kentridge, Jeremy Deller, Rachel Whiteread, Akram Khan, Jason Moran and film directors Danny Boyle and Peter Jackson.

The contemporary Dazzle Ship series, co-commissioned with Liverpool Biennial and supported by Bloomberg Philanthropies, has seen Dazzle Ships in London (Tobian Rehberger), Liverpool (Carlos Cruz-Diez and Sir Peter Blake) and Edinburgh (Ciara Philips) engaging over 13 million people to date.

14-18 NOW is presenting a number of commissions in the U.S. in partnership with Public Art Fund, Park Avenue Armory, MASS MoCA and The Kennedy Center: Akram Khan, *XENOS* (Lincoln Center, October 31 – November 1, 2018), Jason Moran, *James Reese Europe And The Absence of Ruin* (The Kennedy Center, December 8, 2018), William Kentridge, *The Head and The Load* (Park Avenue Armory, December 4 – 15, 2018), Heiner Goebbels, *Everything That Happened Would Happen* (Park Avenue Armory, May 18 – June 3, 2019). 14-18 NOW's international program is made possible by support from Bloomberg Philanthropies and The Backstage Trust.

ABOUT BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK

The Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, d/b/a Brooklyn Bridge Park, is the not-for-profit entity responsible for the planning, construction, maintenance and operation of Brooklyn Bridge Park, an 85-acre sustainable waterfront park stretching 1.3 miles along Brooklyn's East River shoreline. The Corporation's mission is to create and maintain a world class park that is a recreational, environmental and cultural destination enjoyed by the residents of, and visitors to, New York City. The Corporation operates under a mandate, embodied by its General Project Plan, to be financially self-sustaining, which includes the activation of certain development sites within the project's footprint.

ABOUT HUDSON RIVER PARK

Hudson River Park, which extends from Chambers Street to 59th Street along Manhattan's west side, is the longest riverfront park in the United States. This free, urban recreational oasis is home to award-winning skate parks, playgrounds, sports fields, gardens and nature exhibits,

boating and historic vessels, art installations, and myriad year-round events that celebrate the diverse cultures and neighborhoods along its shore. The Park plays a critical role in protecting the Hudson River ecosystem, and though it receives no public operating funds from city, state or federal governments, its development has transformed four miles of decaying piers and parking lots into a premier New York City destination for local residents and visitors alike. The non-profit, *Hudson River Park Friends* helps to ensure ongoing sustainability by serving as the Park's primary source of fundraising, advocacy and support, working in concert with the *Hudson River Park Trust*, the city-state entity that oversees the design, construction and operation of the Park. For more information, please visit www.hudsonriverpark.org.

SUPPORT

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The Leadership Committee for *Flow Separation* is gratefully acknowledged, including Jill & Peter Kraus, Fotene Demoulas & Tom Cote, Elizabeth Fearon Pepperman & Richard C. Pepperman II, Amy & David Abrams, Sarah Arison & Thomas Wilhelm, Jennifer & Jason New, and Paula Cooper Gallery. Support is also provided by Red Crane Foundation, Patricia & Howard Silverstein, Blue Rider Group at Morgan Stanley, Shari & Jeff Aronson, Tracey & Robert Pruzan, and west elm.

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Image credits :

Tauba Auerbach, *Flow Separation*, 2018. Commissioned by Public Art Fund and 14-18 NOW and presented on Fireboat John J. Harvey in New York Harbor July 1, 2018 – May 12, 2019. Courtesy Paula Cooper Gallery.
Image by Nicholas Knight, courtesy Public Art Fund, NY

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