SOJOURNER

Adam Belt

April 13 - 29, 2018

Port Spaces 03
32°42'56.2"N 117°10'35.7"W

Commissioned by
Waterfront Arts & Activation
Port of San Diego

“... walking onto a pier out over the water ... in an effort to enter into the openness of the ocean or bay while escaping the confines of the city. The sense of time slows while the sense of space is more expansive highlighted by the distant horizon.”

Adam Belt
For two weeks in April 2018, people who strolled, jogged, and biked to the end of Broadway Pier encountered an unexpected architectural structure. Those who were drawn to explore this curious art-room were brought into another kind of space entirely. They found themselves on a catwalk over a shallow reflecting pool, whose surface rippled from the wind as well as from their own movement and steps. Flanked by two inward-facing floor-to-ceiling mirrors, reflections of the surrounding landscape, the pool, and of visitors themselves, repeated infinitely. During the twilight hours a single light source embedded in the ceiling cast light on the pool, projecting undulating patterns from the water’s surface up onto the ceiling. In the quiet darkness of night, an infinite depth of rippling projections on the ceiling framed a vantage where the landscape and its reflection became indistinguishable.

Sojourner, by artist Adam Belt, comprises the third installment of the Port Spaces curatorial program at the Port of San Diego. Since 2016, this program has commissioned temporary public artworks on Port Tidelands located throughout the Port District’s five member cities. By definition, these projects
challenge the conventional formats of more permanent public art, opening the field to works that focus on place-making, engaging the community through creativity, and multi-sensory experiences. Belt’s work frequently incorporates sensory elements, employing light, simple mechanisms of reflection, and minimalist compositional strategies that evoke the sublime in the mundane.

The “infinity mirror” (two mirrors facing each other to produce infinite reflections) at work in Sojourner, is a simple illusion to produce, yet with far-reaching metaphorical potential. In Belt’s earlier projects, including the Through the Looking Glass (2012) series, and A Thing is a Hole in a Thing it is Not (2010), infinity mirror configurations are inlaid in gallery walls or in a simple portable structure that can be implemented at various locations. These past projects of Belt’s established a significant precedent for Sojourner: the illusion of infinite depth is enriched by the reflections of the surrounding context. An excerpt from Belt’s proposal:

“I was thinking specifically of walking onto a pier out over the water usually in an effort to enter into the openness of the ocean or bay while escaping the confines of the city. The sense of time slows while the sense of space is more expansive highlighted by the distant horizon.”

While Sojourner’s title was a strong allusion to Broadway Pier’s primary function as a cruise ship terminal, since the pier is otherwise publically accessible, a more general set of evocations is apparent. If we are drawn to the waterfront because of what the vastness of the horizon allows our imaginations to conjure, then Sojourner crystalized and accentuated this experience. Parsing the reflections from reality was at once a playful challenge and a calming mantra. The quiet reflecting pool, a microcosm of the bay and ocean just yards away, managed to dazzle us with its pattern projections while offering a contemplative respite from the urban bustle all around it.

In both its architectural presence and experiential effects, Sojourner compelled our exploration of San Diego Bay’s public tidelands and offered a unique way to contemplate them. With this publication, we hope to reproduce a glimpse of the kind of experiences that Sojourner engendered, and bring about a heightened awareness of the very real and enduring waterfront captured in its reflections.

Yvonne Wise, Director
Waterfront Arts & Activation
Port of San Diego

Above and opposite, bottom: A Thing is a Hole in a Thing it is Not (2010) Plywood, mirrors, light, 36 x 48 x 84 inches
*Through the Looking Glass* (2011 - 2013)
Two-way Mirror, Mirror, Wood, LED Lights
Dimensions variable

**Above:** (James Webb Telescope Mirror)

**Center:** (After The Giant Magellan Telescope)

**Right:** (Hubble Telescope Mirror)
This page:
Sojourner concept scale model in varying lighting conditions

Opposite: Artist concept rendering
Top: Sojourner during installation

Left: Artist Adam Belt and installation crew begin mounting mirrors on modular stage rigging

Right: The finished artwork with descriptive text
“In this work, I have attempted to create a breach or cut in space by use of mirrors. Further, I am looking to create an experience that is both intimate in its small scale and movement of water while also expansive in its reflection.”

Adam Belt
Yogi **Katie B Happy** lead yoga sessions at Sojourner’s activation events.
Violinist and composer Kristopher Apple provided ambient, electronically-augmented musical accompaniment during Sojourner’s activation events.
SOJOURNER

By Adam Belt

April 13 - 29, 2018

San Diego-based artist Adam Belt has created this immersive sculpture which provides a sensory experience influenced by San Diego’s coastal areas, wetlands, and piers. Belt’s work frequently reflects upon the multi-faceted aspects of cultural phenomena. I am looking to create an experience that is both intimate in its scale while also reflective in its reflection. We encourage you to walk through, take your time experiencing Sojourner. The artwork was commissioned by the Port of San Diego as part of its diverse public art curatorial initiative. It is made possible through the support of private and public partnerships and temporary interactive exhibits. Sojourner is a collaboration between the Port’s five member cities: Chula Vista, National City, and San Diego.
Choreographer and dancer Dina Apple and her collaborator, Leslie Armstrong, perform Sacred Geometries, adapting the piece to the Sojourner site.

Inspired by the sacred geometry contemplative drawing practice, the piece was selected because of its aesthetic companionship with Belt’s work. Music composed and performed by Kristopher Apple. Movement choreographed by Dina Apple. Spoken words by Stephen Silke.
Dancer Leslie Armstrong performing Sacred Geometries
SOJOURNER

By Adam Bell
April 13 - 30, 2018

San Diego-based artist Adam Bell has created this permanent structure what resembles a massive frayed rope that has been embedded in the harbor. The rope is made of a metallic wire mesh, and it's intended to be a symbol of the city's maritime history and identity. Visitors can walk through the structure, which is open to the public, and experience the texture and sensation of the rope.

Sojourner was commissioned by the Port of San Diego as part of the Port Place series of floating structures, which range from art installations to public artworks. The rooftop Sculpture Park is located at 1550 10th Ave, San Diego, CA 92101. For more information, visit portofsandiego.org.
Adam Belt is a San Diego-based artist whose work incorporates the experiences and phenomena of natural forces. He is represented by Quint Gallery in La Jolla, CA and has exhibited widely in the United States. His work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego.
SOJOURNER
An Artwork by
ADAM BELT
April 13 - 29, 2018
Open Sundays - 9PM
FREE

#TideLandArt
End of
Broadway Pier

This way to
SOJOURNER
SOJOURNER

Adam Belt

April 13 - 29, 2018

Commissioned by
Waterfront Arts & Activation
Port of San Diego

Port Spaces 03
32°42'56.2”N 117°10'35.7”W

Sojourner was commissioned as part of the Port Spaces curatorial program, a series of temporary site-specific artworks activating public spaces on Port Tidelands.

Images and graphics on pages 6 - 9, 31 courtesy of Adam Belt. All rights reserved.

Images on outer front cover, outer back cover, pages 12 - 19 courtesy of Philip Scholz Rittermann.
©2018 Philipp Scholz Rittermann.

Images and graphics on inner front cover, inner back cover, pages 1 - 4, 10, 11, 20 - 30, 32 by Port of San Diego and may be duplicated with attribution to the Port of San Diego.


adambelt.com

Port of San Diego
Waterfront Arts & Activation

portofsandiego.org
arts@portofsandiego.org
#TideLandArt