

Barque

Sonya Blesofsky

11/16/09 — 12/18/09

In progress November 16th - December 18th, 2009

Cleopatra's is pleased to announce a new project by Brooklyn based artist Sonya Blesofsky.

Based on written and visual documentation of Greenpoint Brooklyn's shipbuilding industry, Blesofsky has created a life size, fugacious, and site specific installation entitled Barque. Beginning on Monday November 16th, 2009, Barque was constructed over the course of a month. Using paper and glue to recreate a what was once a wooden and steel ship hull, the fractured remains of a commercial vessel, the installation has been viewable through Cleopatra's picture window and in the gallery space. Throughout the duration of its building, the store front is on view to passerby at all hours and the gallery space is open every Tuesday evening, 7 - 9 pm. Visitors are able to traverse the space with increasing difficulty, moving through the segmented and fragile construction.

Using the myth of the Cleopatra's history, and the rich history of shipbuilding in Greenpoint as points of departure, I will create a portion of the hull of a large clipper ship with paper, tape, glue and string. This temporary, shoddily-built installation will reference not only famous Greenpoint ships such as The Great Republic, and the USS Monitor, but also numerous disposable timber ships that were constructed for one voyage from the Americas to Europe, only to be dismantled and sold for their parts, or wrecked because of their poor construction. I am interested in the word shipwreck, as it refers to either the action of wrecking or the resultant wreckage; for this piece I will use the shipwreck as metaphor for failure. Allowing the construction of the work to be as important as the final product, I will work on the piece over the course of one month, leaving the process of making exposed, and giving a nod to shipwrights that toiled daily in Brooklyn's shipyards.

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The building of Barque will conclude on Friday December 18th. Please join us for a reception at Cleopatra's with the artist that evening from 7 - 8pm, followed by a gathering at Eat Records. The installation will stay on view from the street until December 31st, the space accessible by appointment only, email ccleopatras@gmail.com

Sonya Blesofsky received her MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute and has had solo

exhibitions at Diet Gallery, Miami and Plane Space, New York. Her work has been included in exhibitions Islip Art Museum and Smack Mellon and recently collaborated with the online publication Triple Canopy.

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