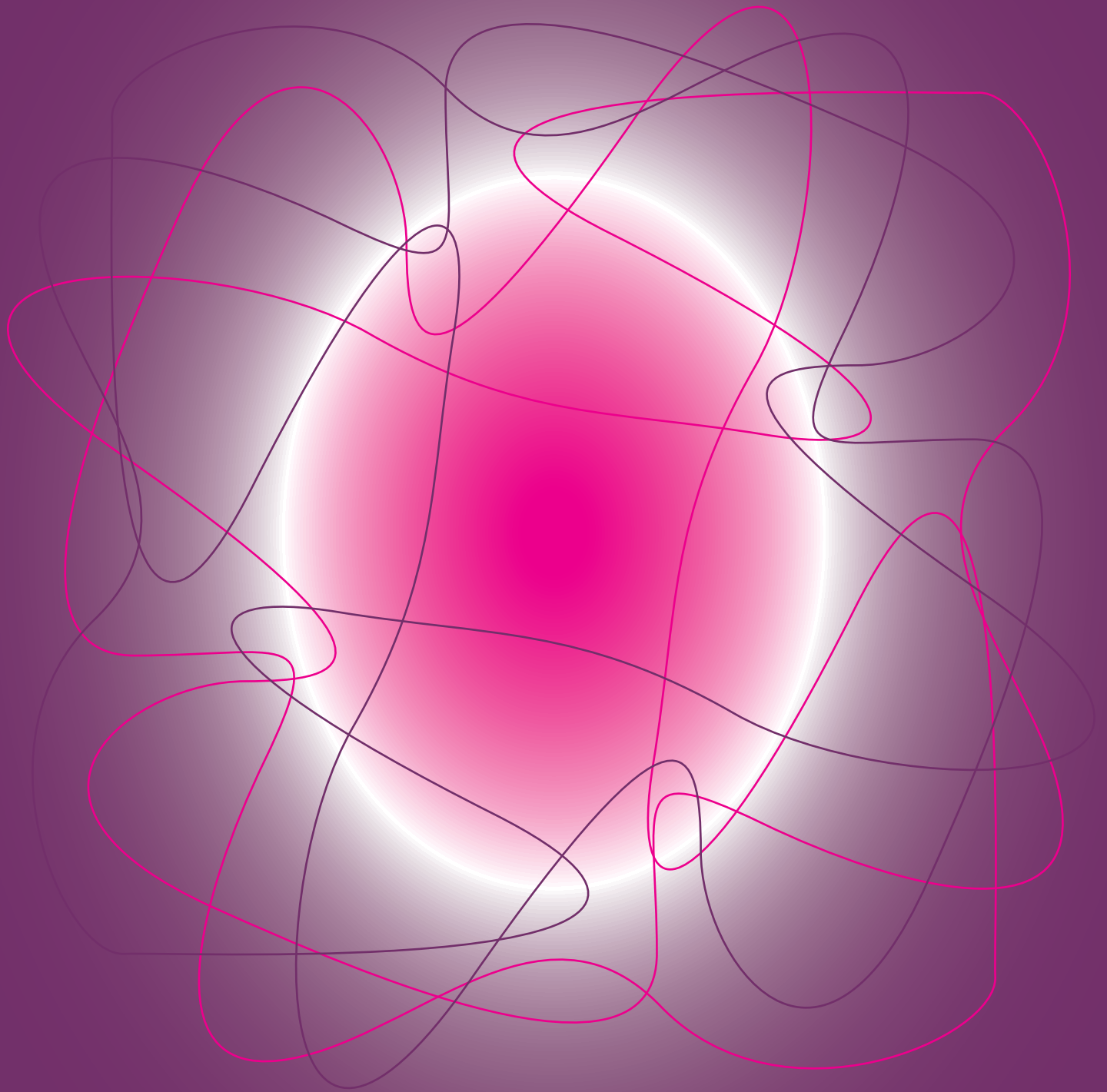


# Our Ocean is a Park

To be fully reused, appropriated, and/or stolen



v.3 Summer 2013

# Introduction



I debated for sometime whether or not to make a catalog for Our Ocean is a Park (OOIAP). It became clear to me that much of what is behind the concept wasn't being properly translated, so the decision became very clear. I have the text in segments to emphasize the core concepts of the third year of the show. Below is the e-mail that was first sent out.

## The e-mail

Dear Fellow Fine Artist, et al;

I invite you to participate in a somewhat guerrilla Fine Art act/exhibition/happening, Saturday, June 28th in Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY US of A. I know this is a bit last minute for some, I hope that does not stop you from participating.

The exact location is the southeast quadrant of Prospect Park, see attached image for more details of where the installations will be.

There is no official permit for this project, nor is it associated with any other organization.

### The Details/rules:

1. Optional meeting at the park on anytime to discuss the locations of each Fine Artwork. This is primarily so we can make a map of where each artist's work will be installed, and also to figure out other logistics. To reiterate, this group meet day is optional we can meet up on other days.

2. Due to no security being enforced and the nature of the



setting where work will be shown, participating artists must be OK with their materials and/or art work being stolen, destroyed, or vandalized. Any materials used must be safe for the park and its visitors. Think light weight, mobile work, example: cardboard. Also work that can be installed out of harms way, example: in a tree.

3. All physical materials left need to be reused by a different participating Fine Artist in a future Fine Art work, not related to this exhibition. Exact details of this to be discussed later.

4. Installation happens on Friday, June 28th. All work must be de-installed by Sunday, June 30th 2013.

5. Please do not post this on the internet or make paper fliers, only email and direct word-of-mouth to others to promote, or extend participation. An official e-mail will be sent, once all Fine Artist participants have been accounted for.



Rain date for exhibition is Sunday, July 7th.

Meet up for logistics and planning is possible contact me if you are interested, let me know.

As stated above, please feel free to forward this to any Fine Artist who you think may want to participate. Please e-mail back if you have any questions. Please e-mail back at your soonest possible convenience to be accounted for as a participant in the project.

I hope your schedule and interest allow you to participate.

My very highest regards,  
Ben Knight



# Park experience, Art experience, Human Experience.

## The Park

Prospect Park is a great city park, in my opinion the best city park in the world. Not only do an amazingly diverse group of people enjoy the park, it also contains some of the most incredible intimate areas of any park. The Vale of Cashmere is a particular location that welcomes intimacy. "The Vale" has had weddings, film shoots, etc... It welcomes creative activity.



## Sustainable

As the Fine Artist, Christopher X J. Jensen (who works mainly as a scientist/professor) has said many times "Changing human behavior is the key to creating a sustainable world." Being sustainable is not about being rooted in the physical. There are many brief shows that do not care about the remains of the materials of the artwork (see Burning Man). This show denies the object as possession. The art shown is something that must be repurposed.

## Discovery

The park allows for unique findings. The first time this happening/show came into thought was over time spent in a remote part of the park. The show is also all about discovery in that the visitors come to the park thinking they are having a park experience and discover and reveal creative integrations and interventions. Like John Fekner's Detective show from 1978 (see website) this is a show about detecting.

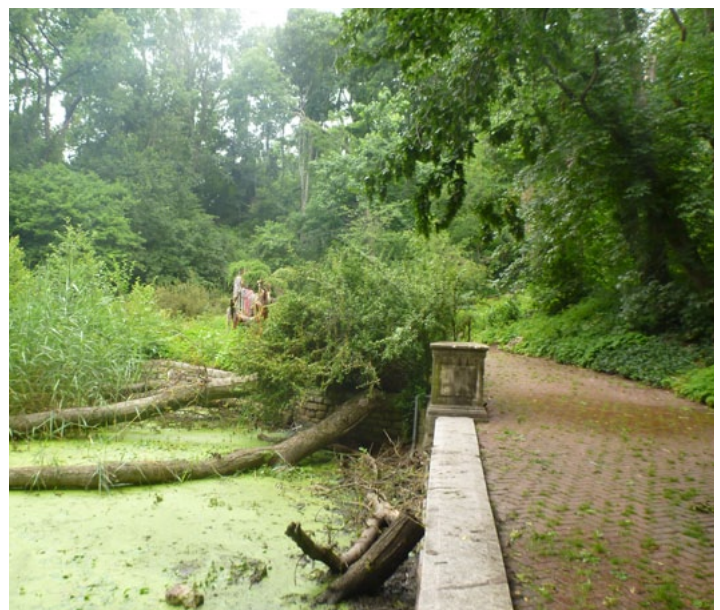
## Modesty

I am interested in how various cultures understand this concept. Since this project is about being secretive, unknowns, and mystery: the possibility of making monumental work or anything that is way beyond human proportions is impossible. To produce less is to give more.



## Framing by nature

When a Fine Artist installs work in an architectural setting you have certain contextual structures (mental, physical, etc...) that need to be adjusted for. Here the art is at the mercy of the elements, but only for a short time.





# Brian Higbee



Title: **A Theory of Progress Floor Segment (An Accurate Model for a Cohesive Distributive Communication System)**  
Size: Variable  
Materials: Wood and Acrylic Latex  
Date: 2013

For more information click on the website below:

[brianhigbee.net](http://brianhigbee.net)



A Theory of Progress asks us if the capitalization and overabundance of design theory within contemporary art discourse represent a true progression of ideas within aesthetics or merely mimics the inherent evolution of complex systems towards a more efficient model for profiteering. Design is capital and is a manifestation of ultimate gain through optimization, both through a "perfection" of the visual composition as it relates to the "idea" and of its purpose for a "practical" and widely distributed use. A Theory of Progress Floor Segment (An Accurate Model for a Cohesive Distributive Communication System) takes a tongue-n-cheek approach to the problems of design theory and offers a pragmatic solution by creating an easily assimilated system for creating colorful and easily consumable art products.

-Brian Higbee





# Kiersten Greene



Title: **Weide Baum**

Size: Variable

Materials: Yarn

Date: 2013

For more information click on the website below:

[brookerhollow.com](http://brookerhollow.com)

As I was coming up with the idea and going through the process of installation, I kept thinking about my high school art teacher, Deborah Corwin. She inspired me to pursue projects in high school that I might not have otherwise pursued — a series of collapsed, abstract pots in ceramics; yarn and cord sculptures; fabric and textile designs. I was also thinking about meine Oma, who unknowingly provided most of the yarn for the project. When she passed away three years ago, I acquired boxes and boxes of yarn she'd started collecting in the 40s and 50s. You can't find such brilliant colors as easily these days, and I'm grateful that she left me something with which to continue her knit-and-crochet legacy.

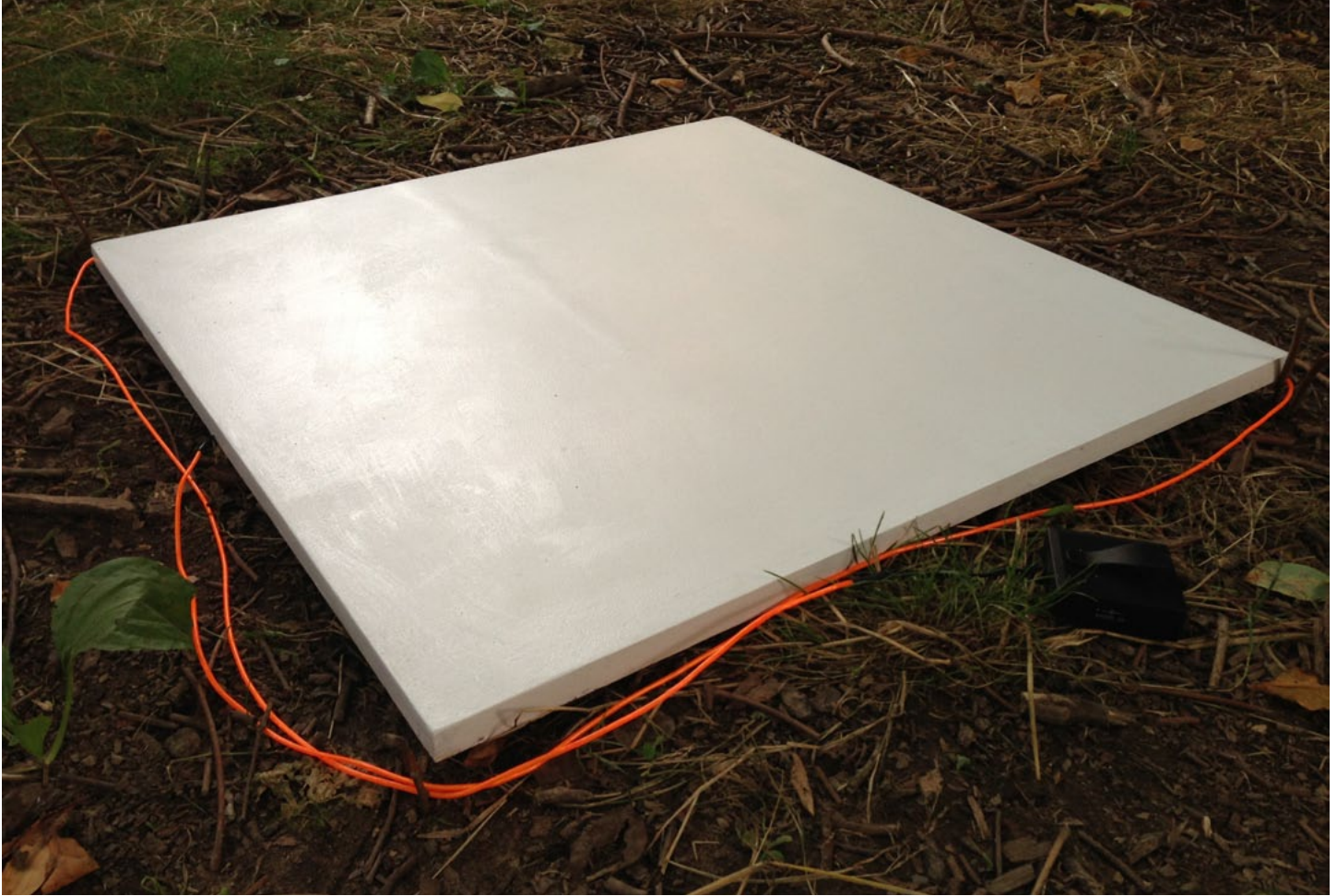
Ms. Corwin coached me to look to nature for inspiration — to think about how feathers and animal coats and plants create patterns and flows in color and line. Oma inspired me to consider color in my work and often had me speaking in German with her. This piece, which is inspired by both Ms. Corwin and Oma, is called Weide Baum, German for weeping willow.

-Kiersten Greene





# Ben Knight



Title: **Previously U.nseen Future O.bject**

Size: variable

Materials: EL Wire, Solar Panels, Wood and household paint

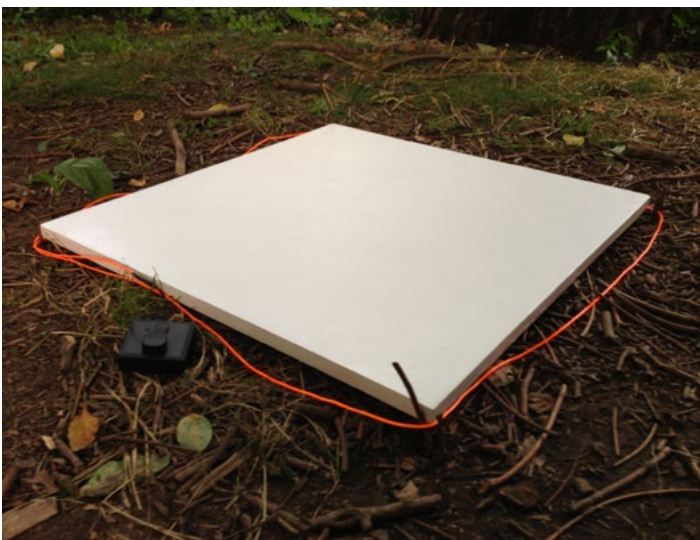
Date: 2013

For more information click on the website below:

[benknight.net](http://benknight.net)

The work contextually started from Brian Higbee's last year contribution, "An Object for a Future I'll Never See" (see Last Year's Catalogue) to Our Ocean is a Park. Using Electroluminescence I framed the square loosely. The title plays off of last years work by Higbee as well references Science Fiction.

-Ben Knight





# Acknowledgments and colophon

Special thanks to Brian and Kiersten for participating.

Special love to Rachie and Javi for you letting me be me and giving me extra time to put this together.

Thanks to the Fine Artists who encouraged me and expressed interest in the show, but for various reasons were unable to fully participate: John Fekner, Glen Eden Einbinder, etc...

Extra special thanks to those unknown viewers/experincers who may never see this catalog and know the full extend of all the parameters of the show. YOU made it.

Please think about your possible contribution/art work to the August 2014 - version 4 of the show.

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