

FLOE

A
CLIMATE
OF
RISK

THE FICTIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY
OF STEPHEN TALASNIK

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 – FEBRUARY 18, 2024



Museum for
Art in Wood

museumforartinwood.org

FLOE tells the story of a fictitious shipwreck, carried to Philadelphia by the glacier that buried it. As global temperatures warmed, the glacier melted and surrendered the ship's remains, which were discovered by mischievous local children on an illicit jaunt about the city. The archaeological remains and reconstructions are presented in this exhibition, alongside a sculptural representation of the ice floe that carried the ship to its final resting place.

While exploring **FLOE**, investigate the ship's artifacts in the **Debris Fields**; wander in the shadows of the **Glacier**; trace its path in the **Glacial Mapping** mural; study the **Studio Sculptures** constructed to reflect imaginings of "glacial architecture"; and pass time reading and reflecting in **The Closet of Curiosities**, which houses works from the Museum's permanent collection selected by Talasnik to echo the stories told in **FLOE**.

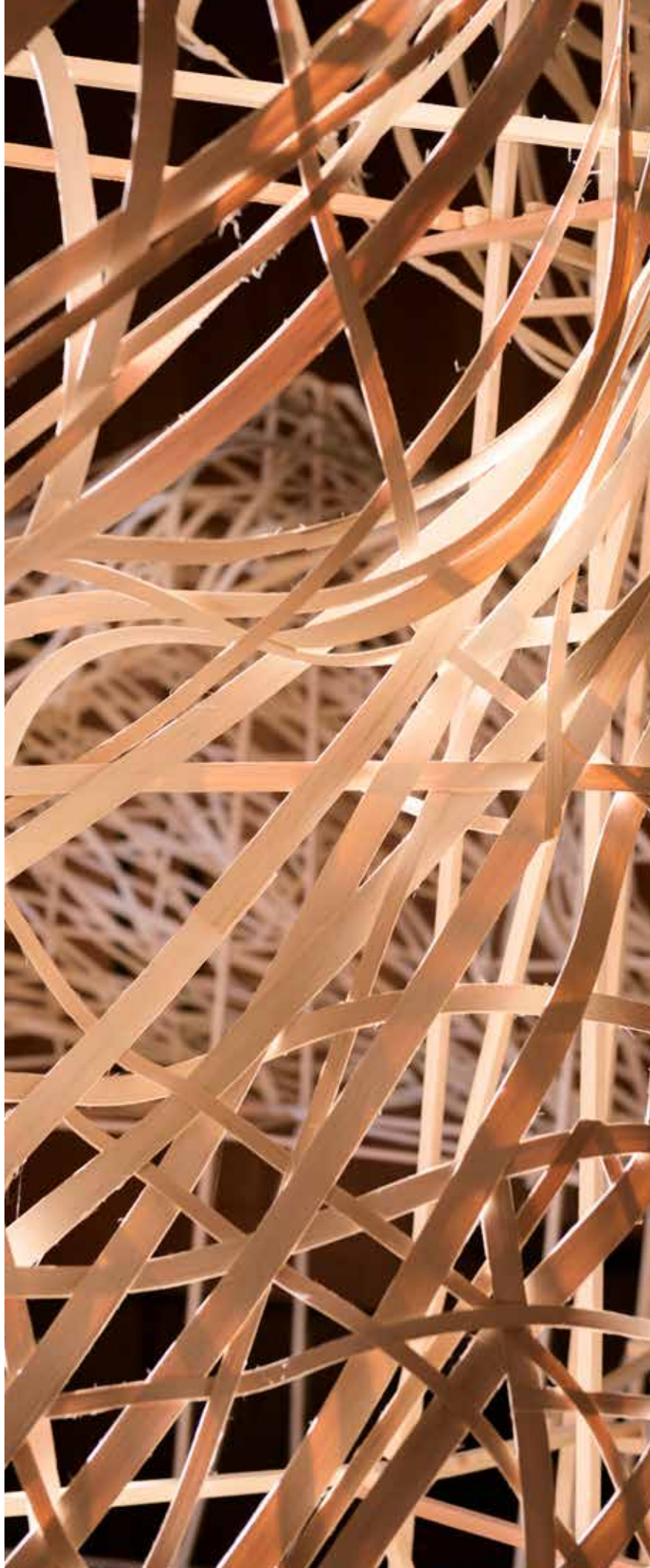
While data may facilitate an understanding of the impact of climate change through numbers—of lives lost or property destroyed—the disruption of community is far more difficult to quantify. Through this exhibition, Talasnik's imaginative story—illustrated in wood, bamboo, and composite materials—will help us comprehend these changes and their cause and effect through nautical architecture, relics, antiquities, and mythmaking.

Curator: Jennifer-Navva Milliken

Manager Of Exhibitions: Amrut Mishra, Ph.D.



Fissure (detail), 2018–23. Painted basswood with metallic pigment, 25 x 46 x 22



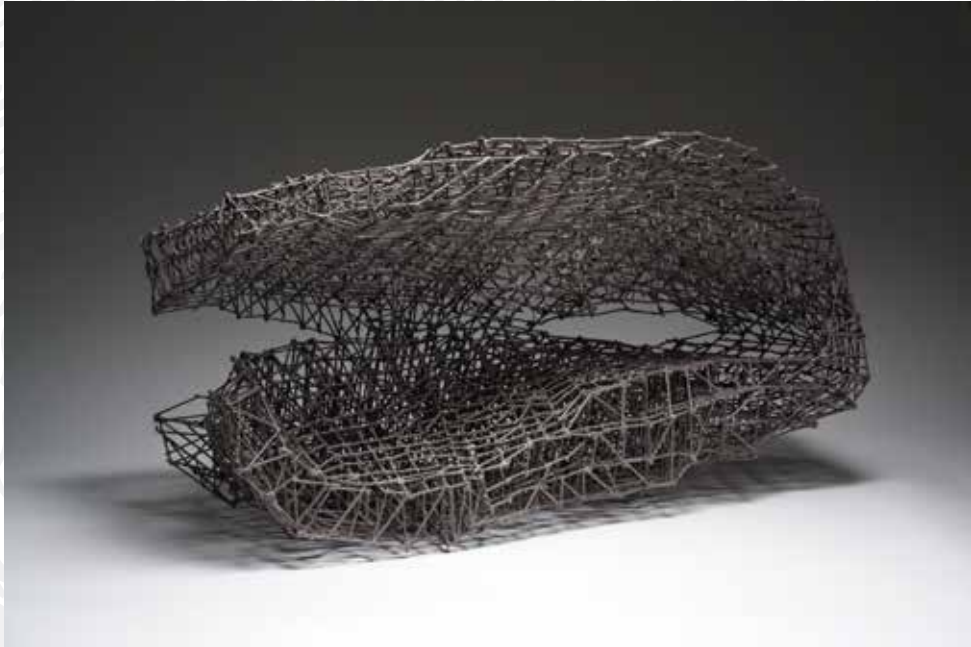
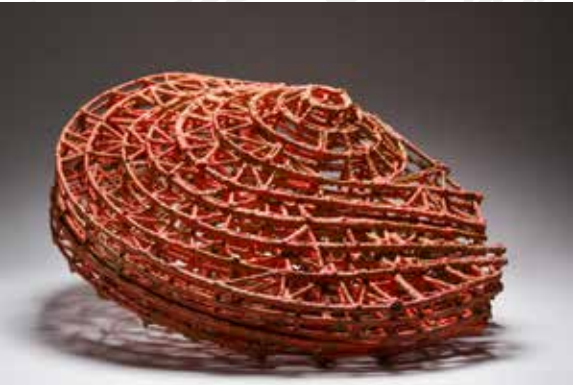
Stephen Talasnik has built an artistic career by exploring the links between drawing and building. His work is site-specific, occupying a scale that blurs the line between sculpture and architecture. Trained as an architect but known worldwide for his organic structures installed in challenging natural settings, Talasnik creates work informed by time travel and “fictional function,” as well as the infrastructure of the urban environment.

Originally from Philadelphia, he is a graduate of the Rhode Island School of Design and Temple University’s Tyler School of Art. After completing his graduate study at Tyler, he spent 15 years commuting between NYC and Southeast Asia, where a fascination with hand building reemerged through his study of the art of bamboo construction.

He has created site-specific installations for Storm King Art Center, the Denver Botanic Gardens, and Manitoga, the Russel Wright House in Garrison, NY, as well as the Tippet Rise Art Center in Montana, Architektur Galerie Berlin, and the Curitiba Biennale at the Oscar Niemeyer Museum in Brazil. His drawings are in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY); The Albertina (Vienna); Centre Pompidou (Paris); National Gallery of Art (Washington, DC); Philadelphia Academy of Fine Art (PAFA); the Woodmere Art Museum (Philadelphia); and the Kupferstichkabinett (Berlin).

Photos by: Jeffrey Scott French
Dimensions are listed in inches, H x W x D.

Leaning Globe, 1998–2023. Painted basswood with metallic pigment, 22 x 42 x 29



Fissure, 2018–23. Painted basswood with metallic pigment, 25 x 46 x 22



Anatomy of a Glacier, 1998–2023. Basswood infrastructure and stretched resin skin with fluorescent pigment, 15 x 30 x 18

“ I AM A SELF-TAUGHT ENGINEER WHO MERGES TRADITIONAL DRAWING AND SCULPTURE WITH ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE; HENCE A “FICTIONAL ENGINEER”, MORE COMFORTABLE IN THE WORLD OF VISIONARY OR PAPER ARCHITECTURE THAN IN TRADITIONAL PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. MY KNOWLEDGE OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURE IS THE BYPRODUCT OF CURIOSITY AND CONVICTION; IT IS NOT ROOTED IN ACADEMIA. I RELY ON ‘HOMEMADE MATH,’ NO DIGITAL PROGRAMS, ONLY INTUITION AND A LOVE OF MAKING THINGS BY HAND.”



Hive: Tippet Rise, 2018, Tippet Rise Art Center, Fishtail, Montana. Woven flat reed and pine infrastructure, H. 240 x Diam. 168



PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Please check our website and social media for upcoming programs and events.

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TOURS

Guided group tours of the exhibition and collection are \$5 per person, lasting 45-60 minutes, and require a minimum of 10 guests. Please book your group tour one month in advance at info@museumforartinwood.org.

We offer free 15-minute mini tours. Perfect for a lunch break, a Saturday stroll, or a neighborhood excursion!

The exhibition program is generously supported by the Sidney E. Frank Foundation, the Cambium Circle Members of the Museum for Art in Wood, the Bresler Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Philadelphia Cultural Fund, William Penn Foundation, and Windgate Foundation. In-kind support was provided by Boomerang, Inc.



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Cover:

Hive: Tippet Rise (detail), 2018, Tippet Rise Art Center, Fishtail, Montana. Woven flat reed and pine infrastructure, H. 240 x Diam. 168



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Museum for Art in Wood

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Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00 – 5:00 pm