



Lilac Preservation Project
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Lilac Becomes Aquarium from Austronesia
Site-Specific Art Installation Appears for Three Saturdays Only

New York, NY— In a series of summer Saturday soirees, June 16th, 23rd and 30th, from 8:00 to 11:30 PM, the *Aquarium from Austronesia* will arrive on the Hudson River. The final evening coincides with the North River Historic Ship Festival (www.nrhss.org), which runs from June 28th to July 1st.

The historic ship *Lilac*, berthed at Pier 25, will be transformed by a site-responsive installation under the orchestration of artist Beatrice Glow, and in collaboration with new media artist Matt Romein. The installation will consist of video and illuminated sculptures that map and visualize Austronesia -- the region that shares linguistic roots originating from Taiwan, spanning west to Madagascar and east to Easter Island.

The art work celebrates five thousand years of transpacific human interconnectivity and migration through the visual metaphor of illuminated drawings of fish from Austronesia that conjoin islands to islands, continents to continents, and cultures to cultures. By approaching Austronesian prehistory on the *Lilac*, the romanticized Gauguinesque Pacific is juxtaposed against the backdrop of the colonial aesthetics of World War II-era maritime instruments. The exhibition seeks to re-envision the possibilities of dissolving long engendered prejudices and fomenting new spaces for reflections.

Each evening will feature live art programming with new work and improvisations by Angelica Negron's musical ensemble *Arturo en el Barco*, Masami Tomihisa and musicians, Peptalk (Preshish Moments and Shayna Dunkleman), Chuck Bettis presenting Silver Process, and conceptual butoh performance by Sindy Butz.

Program details and biographies of the artists and musicians can be found at www.austronesian-institute.org/

The lighthouse tender *Lilac* was launched on May 26, 1933. She carried supplies to lighthouses and maintained buoys for the U.S. Lighthouse Service and then the U.S. Coast Guard until she was decommissioned in 1972. *Lilac* is the last steam-powered lighthouse tender in America and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is eligible to become a National Historic Landmark. The ship is owned by the non-profit Lilac Preservation Project. More information is available at www.lilacpreservationproject.org.

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