UNEXPECTED ART

SERENDIPITOUS INSTALLATIONS, SITE-SPECIFIC WORKS, AND SURPRISING INTERVENTIONS

EDITED BY JENNY MOUSSEAU SPRING  PREFACE BY FLORENTIJN HOFMAN  INTRODUCTION BY CHRISTIAN L. FROCK

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Softcover

Fluorescent yellow (803) type on cover

Painted Edges
Face: pinkish-red
Head: fluorescent yellow (803)
Foot: light blue
JANET ECHELMAN

1.26 Amsterdam was installed over the Amstel River from atop the Amsterdam Stopera, which houses the City Hall and Muziektheater. The sculpture is made entirely of soft materials, which allows it to attach to existing architecture without extra reinforcement. A unique lighting program integrates undulating colors reflected on the water below. The sculpture becomes an ethereal form that transforms day to night; in darkness, it appears to float in thin air.

The form and content draw inspiration from the interconnectedness of Earth’s systems. The studio used laboratory data from NASA and NOAA on the effects of the 2010 Chile earthquake, and the resulting 1.26-microsecond shortening of the Earth’s day. The sculpture’s three-dimensional form is inspired by the mapping of tsunami wave heights across an entire ocean.

1.26 Amsterdam, 2013–2015
Spectra® fiber, high-tenacity polyester fiber, and colored lighting
Dimensions of net:
80’ length × 60’ width × 30’ depth
Installation Dimensions:
230’ length × 140’ width × 30’ height