

Oyster Island: A Floating Sculpture at Garrison Art Center

On July 14 environmental artist Mara G. Haseltine will launch her site-specific work, a floating sculpture entitled "Dream River Mermaid Summer Oyster Island" which will float in the Hudson River at Garrison's Landing in Garrison. The work is part of Garrison Art Center's summer sculpture exhibition CURRENT now on display along the river on Garrison's Landing and on the majestic grounds of Boscobel through October 11, 2010. The artist will give a talk Wednesday at 1:30 prior to the launch at 2:00.

Environmental artist Mara Haseltine has worked for the past five years to make alternative green methods for



Mara G. Haseltine

restoring oysters. New York Harbor once consisted of 350 miles of oyster reef, and was known as "The Oyster Capital of the World." On the fifteenth at Garrison's Landing she will briefly speak about her quest to create the ultimate oyster habitat.

Haseltine utilizes a plethora of materials, which before use, she tests to determine the oyster "spat count, or larvae favor." Her goal is create systems through design and choice of materials that restore the environment, (Haseltine avoids toxic and environmentally harmful materials like plastic and concrete). The materials used in "...Oyster Island..." were created with guiding principles of the New York Department of Environmental Protection that state materials used in oyster restoration should last for over 100 years have zero negative environmental impact. Doing just that Haseltine's mixed media sculptures include a myriad of "green" restoration techniques from renewable energy to hard-fire ceramics and marble—all meant to be harmlessly incorporated into oyster reef.

The artist considers her work to be a form of "Geotherapy" a practice whose aim is to address today's

For the past three years, Haseltine has taught environmental art at Eugene Lang College, The New School for Liberal Arts.

For more information about Garrison Art Center, please