

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Theresa Ganz
Wave Room

January 13 – February 25, 2018
Opening Reception: January 13, 6-8pm

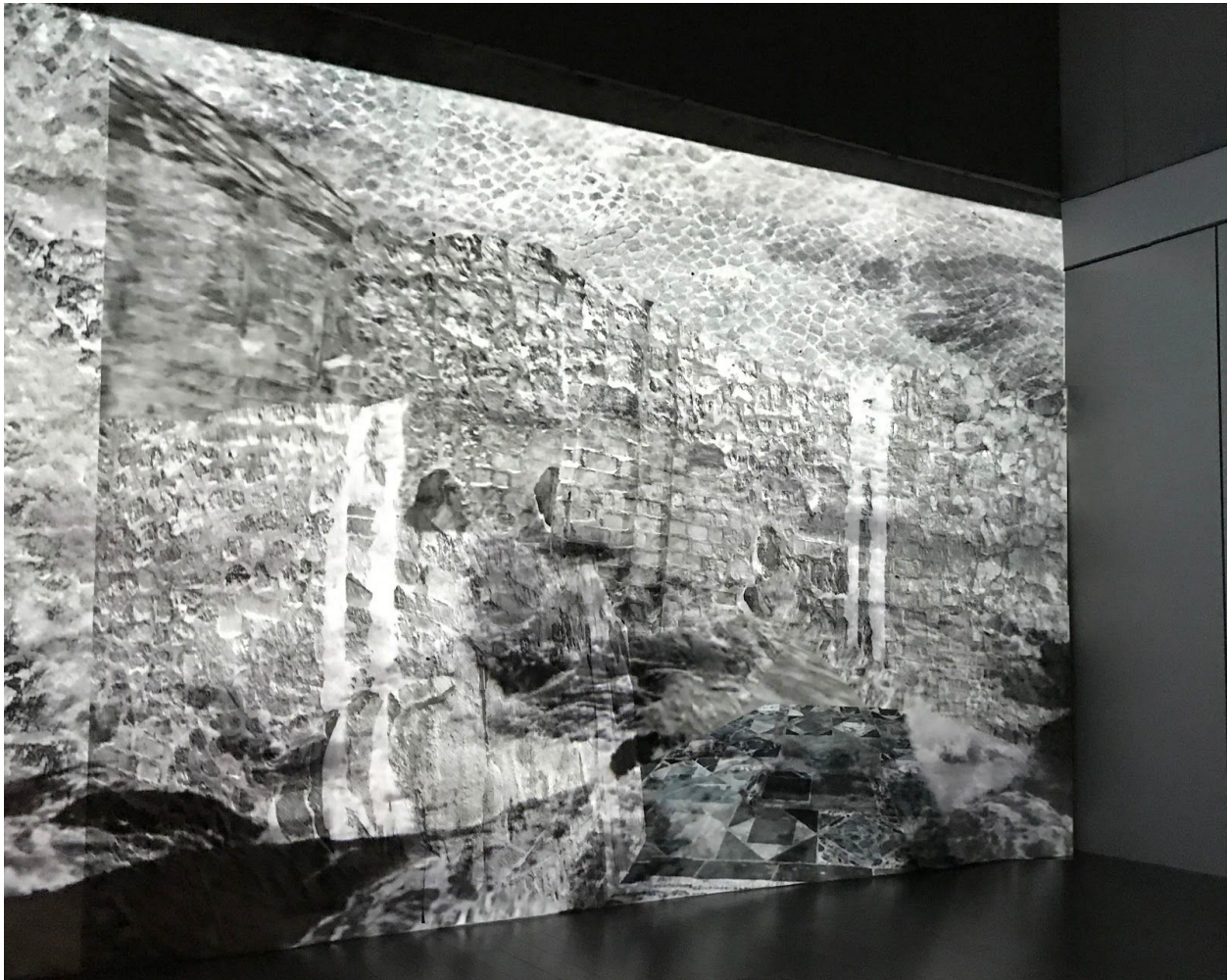


Image caption: *Wave Room* (detail), 2017, multi-media installation, dimensions variable. (courtesy of the artist)

Theresa Ganz's *Wave Room*, curated by Smack Mellon's Curator and Director of Exhibitions, Gabriel de Guzman, is a meditation on how humans cope when the social order is threatened by cataclysmic events such as natural disaster, war, or political crisis. Through an immersive, multimedia installation, visitors encounter a city being swallowed by the sea. While this project evokes the turbulence and tumult of traumatic incidents, it also holds onto the possibility of hope.

Smack Mellon

92 Plymouth Street @ Washington Street, Dumbo, Brooklyn, NY 11201
Tel: 718.834.8761 | www.smackmellon.org | Hours: Wednesday-Sunday, 12-6pm
Contact: Angela Cruz acruz@smackmellon.org

Lining the walls of the exhibition space are digitally collaged, printed images of the ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, which were captured as screenshots from Google Street View. These ancient Roman towns were destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE. Projected onto these scenes is video footage of the storm surge from recent hurricanes that were amplified by global warming.

A soundtrack fills the room with an electronically processed excerpt from Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* (*Twilight of the Gods*). Written in 1876 as the final installment of the *Ring Cycle*, this leitmotif is sung by Rhine-maidens who bemoan the loss of their gold because its beauty gave them such joy. Ganz is interested in themes of beauty and materialism and how they can be used to support darker impulses. The epic operatic work of the *Ring Cycle* itself reveals a combination of apocalyptic doom and ethno-nationalistic nostalgia that resonates with our current political climate. In this project, Ganz reveals the course of destruction and restoration, as well as the complicated aftermath that disaster inevitably brings.

Theresa Ganz was born in New York City. She earned her BA from Vassar College in Film and her MFA from San Francisco Art Institute in Photography. She works in photo-based collage, installation and video. Her work has been shown nationally and internationally at The Datz Museum of Art in South Korea, the Museum of Craft and Design in San Francisco, The Bell Gallery at Brown University, San Francisco CameraWork and The John Michael Kohler Arts Center in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, as well as at various commercial spaces in New York and San Francisco. Ganz's work was included in the 2016 DeCordova Biennial. Her art has also been featured and reviewed in publications including ArtForum, Mousse Magazine, Outpost Journal and Magazine Gitz. She was the 2015 winner of the ArtSlant Prize. Ganz's work is in the collections of Providence College and the RISD Museum. She is a founding member and director at Regina Rex in Brooklyn. She currently resides in Providence, RI, where she is faculty at Brown University.

www.theresaganz.com

Smack Mellon's exhibitions are supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council, New York City Council Member Stephen Levin, and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and with generous support from The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, The Robert Lehman Foundation, Iorio Charitable Foundation, Select Equity Group Foundation, many individuals and Smack Mellon's Members.

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Space for Smack Mellon's programs is generously provided by the Walentas family and Two Trees Management.

The artist thanks the Brown Arts Initiative for their financial support of her exhibition.

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