

Hello, this is Melissa Haviland again. The piece that you're looking at now is called You Can't Take It With You: Archipelago. Archipelago is the word that sort of means 'group of islands.' This one, I have just always wanted to make this piece. As soon as I started to sort of dream about using blue tarp as a material I wanted to crochet with it. I was not a crocheter in any way, I knew nothing about crochet. Interestingly in my life I'm a seamstress, I've always used the sewing machine, made garments, but never ever in my life, even as a kid, did I knit or crochet. So I knew coming into this piece that I wanted to use yarn made of blue tarp to make large islands or puddles or Lily pads that looked like doilies out of the blue tarp.

So I wanted to make these large circular pieces that had these beautiful patterns within them with crochet. So I had a vision of what I wanted. So I started out by hiring an assistant to crochet for me for the first few. And then I used the COVID-19 shutdown this year and all that time to really learn crochet. I was learning it, so the minute that she started crochet for me I started to learn it as well. And then she made four of the pieces that you're seeing. There's 13 total at the current total, it may grow, I'm not convinced this piece is completely done. But I then crocheted the others. And it really assisted me. I crocheted some objects; a blanket, some hats, a few other things, you know, sort of functional things within my life; previous rugs, previous to this, as sort of practice pieces. And then I started to crochet them and it was really miraculous. There's something incredibly fun using the tarp this way, and it's also a tremendous experience to make things big. I really, respond to that and I hope that there's enough right now to get this kind of visual idea of them sort of dotting the space, dotting the sea and again, I think of them as puddles, I think of them as islands within this space and all those things: Lily pads. And this circular reference with the Curiouser & Curiouser, and with this piece, really felt consistent with trying to get this, the vision of the original You Can't Take It With You dream. So it all sort of feels appropriate.

And I felt so excited to work with tarp this intensely, and just always be surrounded by that color blue. I find the color of tarp to be that perfect shade of blue for me. And it is, you know, both sort of melancholy, but also makes me think so much about joy and stability. It feels like a real stable color. This whole show, is also me trying to come to some sort of grips with issue issues of climate change around tides rising or the oceans rising. I have spent time on properties right along the ocean that are slowly eroding away over my relationship with them. And it's a really emotional experience to know that those spaces will be gone, and you can sort of mathematically do the research to figure out how long they'll be there.

And so there's this undercurrent within this show about climate change. And I particularly was interested in this, you know, there's a high rate of depression in elementary kids, at least prior to the pandemic, about climate change. So there's like, the kids are depressed about it. They think about it, it keeps them up at night, once they start to realize it. And, so I was thinking about, the blue as being melancholy, the blue is referencing the sea. And I wanted to show, I don't know, growth or erosion or something, right. It's either that the sea is growing through erosion or that the islands are eroding. And so I really liked the dance in this piece with material.