

Hello again, this is Melissa Haviland. The piece that you're looking at now...technically all of the pieces in the show start with their titles start with the name You Can't Take It With You, and then there's a set of parentheses that have their specific name. This one is called Curiouser & Curiouser. And for those of you who have read Alice in Wonderland, we'll see the direct reference to that in the piece. This is a direct reference to the scale shifts in Alice in Wonderland; so I'm taking the teacup and I'm growing it a bit larger. Each of the pieces, so the saucers are two foot in diameter and the teacups they're sort of about 18 inches tall-ish. And they're made with screen printing on both Tyvek and blue tarp.

So in this case, these pieces are using these plastic materials. And this is a time period where I was very obsessed with blue tarp and I still am. I see it as a very essential material in our world. I think about it a lot as being pretty ubiquitous, and crossing classes. I remember images from Hurricane Katrina, the aftermath, where there would be very upper-class communities where roofs would be covered with tarp and there'd be very low class communities, right, where places would be fixed with blue tarp or at least temporarily. I also had this really intense experience in one of my trips to India, where I was staying at the, embassy in Delhi which is a very manicured area.

It's very much separate from Indian culture. You sort of walk in and you can eat a hamburger there. The whole whole thing is pretty much you know orchestrated to make you feel like you're in the U.S., a small pocket of the U.S. inside of India. But if you look just outside of the property, you can see the unplanned community just next door, it's been there for about, I don't know, 60 or 70 years. So when it established, when the building of the embassy happened, and it was started by the people who were hired to build the embassy and they just never moved. And so generationally they've just stayed. And so it's their children that now live there. And if you look out, it is like a sea of blue, and mostly it's this color of the blue tarp.

And it also, to me, references the blue in India. There, the color blue was often used to paint the houses of the Brahmin class, which is the highest class in Indian culture traditionally. And so Jodhpur, the city of Jodhpur, if you look out over certain areas, it looks blue, a sea of blue. So at one point it was because many Brahmin people lived there, but also because that blue became what you wanted to paint your house with. And that's a little bit disassociated from class, but, that color blue is something that I've associated with sort of like being a class straddling color. Also this year 2020, the Pantone color of the year is classic blue. So I feel like it is just a thing.

So this piece, Curiouser & Curiouser, it's a set of 44 of the large tea cups and saucers. They're sort of soft sculpture made of Tyvek and tarp, and then sewn together, quilted together and sewn into their shapes. And they're meant to sort of be strewn around the space to feel like they are at sea, that they're floating within the space, similar to the, paper tea cups in the the key piece You Can't Take It With You. I wanted them to feel loose in the space, and to sort of collect with each other in these sort of feelings of natural waves, like the waves brought them, to settle that way or that they were riding the waves. They are printed: the screen print image that you see is a very abstracted sort of idea of waves or a pattern that sort of feels like waves shapes.