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For Immediate Release

Andrea Thompson: *Talismans for Travelers II*
November 4 – December 6, 2020

SOWA First Friday Receptions

November 6 & December 4, 5:30 – 8:30pm

Gallery Hours

Wednesdays – Sundays, 11am – 5pm

Right: *Talismans for Travelers* at 3S Artspace,
Portsmouth, NH, September 2019. With work by
Katrine Hildebrandt and August Elder.



Boston, MA: Boston Sculptors Gallery presents *Talismans for Travelers II*, a new installation by Andrea Thompson. The *Travelers* are a group of four elongated boat forms suspended overhead. The irregular, semi-transparent forms resemble a castaway's improvised construction, as well as organic forms such as seedpods or cocoons. Ranging from four to twelve feet in length, each is unique, yet they form a family that is clearly traveling together, bound for some unseen destination.

Their construction incorporates traditional boat-building techniques, such as steaming wood strips to make them pliable. Each has a keel, the boat's long straight backbone, but the *Travelers* are twisted, asymmetric, and follow their own sense of direction. The oak frames are "skinned" with fiberglass—another boatbuilding material—but here fibers fray, overlapping irregularly, and leaving the resin's golden color visible.

Any Port in a Storm is a series of animated, quirky house shapes on an ocean-blue horizon. Each stands off-kilter on mismatched legs, braced against the elements, lending them unique personalities. Wrapped in plaster and gauze, they imply destruction and repair, and a healing still in progress. Both whimsical and ghost-like, they offer only temporary respite for the weary traveler.

Circumnavigation offers a map of the *Travelers'* journey as a wandering, hand-stitched line of blue across raw canvas. Without scale, landmarks or coordinates, this "map" emphasizes the subjective nature of experience: each moment is another step into the unknown. Our paths are shaped by our intentions, but also by our history, our assumptions, our strengths and weaknesses, our blind spots. It's only in mathematical abstraction that the shortest line between two points is a straight line. Real life takes us on more wandering paths.

Andrea Thompson's artworks and installations have been exhibited in New England and as far away as Japan, the Netherlands, and the Arctic Circle. A graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts Boston and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, she is now based in Durham, New Hampshire.

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