

GUILD HALL: OFFSITE

NOW HERE at the Amagansett Life Saving Station with
Bastienne Schmidt, Toni Ross and Alice Hope

ARTIST STATEMENT

Toni Ross

I have long been interested in the rhythm of language, the ways we look to communicate and the origins of ancient writing. International maritime signal flags are a form of communication that is at once functional and beautiful, crossing language barriers to create a universal method of communication. A number of my works in *Now Here* contemplate these signal flags in the context of present-life challenges that require life-saving in one form or another.



As our times remain tumultuous, we continue to search for new life-saving measures. In a direct translation of the universal maritime signal flags, these woven flags mounted together declare “I am in distress.” Natural fibers (wool, cotton, linen) make up the identifiable pattern of each flag. In an homage to the ALSS’s home on Long Island, potato sacks serve as the “warp” of these weaving’s in acknowledgment of the East end’s history of potato farming.

Flag, 2022

Wool, cotton, linen, industrial grade polypropylene potato sacks



My site responsive work often draws attention to details that one might otherwise simply pass, never seeing or noticing. *Ramp* is a mirrored pine replica of the elegantly proportioned ramp leading into the ALSS’s historic boathouse. Created with an added bench, *Ramp* provides a place to pause and contemplate the exquisite architecture of the ALSS.

Ramp, 2022

Pine wood, stainless-steel screws



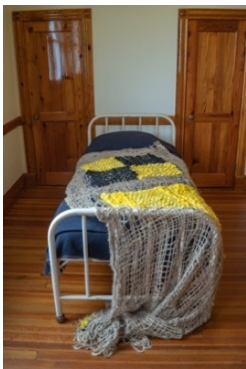
Nested Buoy, 2022
Manila rope, hemp rope, found buoy

Found on-site among tall grasses, this beautifully patinated iron buoy is a time-worn nautical guide nested on over 600 feet of heavy-gauge marine rope, providing a much deserved pedestal as a resting place of recognition.



We Require a Pilot, 2022
Wool, jute netting

International maritime marine flag “G” speaks to the desire to find the path forward. As our country’s leadership continues to fail us, the signal’s translation of “I require a pilot” feels particularly relevant as we move through this historic moment.



Mixed Signals, 2022
Wool, jute netting

As we navigate the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the confusion between what we know and do not yet know only grows. Represented in this piece are two international maritime signal flags that translate to “You should stop your vessel instantly (contagion on board)” and “My vessel is ‘healthy’ and I request free practice.” Presented together, what is one to do?