



THE ARRIVAL, 1620

A SITE SPECIFIC INSTALLATION BY MIMI GROSS

October 2, 2020–January 31, 2021

Curated by Breon Dunigan



460 COMMERCIAL STREET | PROVINCETOWN MA | PAAM.ORG | 508-487-1750

THE ARRIVAL, 1620



Detail from untitled (Sun Gallery, Provincetown by Jules Aarons

Provincetown Art Association and Museum is extremely grateful to Mimi Gross for her brilliant exhibition, *The Arrival, 1620*. A project of this scale required many collaborators, funders, and individuals to whom we would like to extend our sincere gratitude:

Mimi Gross

Seamen's Bank

Alexander C. and Tillie S. Speyer Foundation

Cooperative Bank of Cape Cod

Cape Cod Foundation

Town of Provincetown Visitor's Service Board

Arts Foundation of Cape Cod

Berta Walker

Golden Paint

Breon Dunigan, Curator

Mike Levy, Collaborator

Heather Weston

Hut construction

Thomas Whitridge

Process photography

Seth Abrahamson

Jim Zimmerman

Bill Rigby

Sam Tager

Liam Bailey

Eric Firestone

Jacob Burckhardt

Zak Vreeland

Nathan Kernan

Jay Beber

Hedi Sorger

Tim Berry

Bruce Deeley

Sarah Fuhrman

Patricia Hickson

Saskia Grooms

Matt Kubourne

Dan Murphy

Philadelphia Precision CNC

Steve Powers (Espo)

John Taylor

Sarah Young

Julie Martin

Melissa Rachleff Burt

Artwork courtesy of the Eric Firestone Gallery

FROM THE ARTIST, MIMI GROSS

My first thanks to PAAM and Breon Dunigan for commissioning me to make the work. I made the maquette Summer 2019 after researching as much as I could find.

Thanks to Cornerstone Management, 54 White Street Studio Space, New York, for the month of July.

Thanks to Golden Artist Colors for their overwhelmingly generous palette of “golden” colors.

Thanks to the amazing Mike Levy who helped me assemble all of the work within three weeks.

After making the model, I made a breakdown of each figure for cutting the forms in order to develop a dimensional image. I call it “21/2-D”. Mike then blew up the drawings to scale—about 5' (17th century heights). The half-inch plywood was then cut by two craftsmen, John Taylor and Dan Murphy. The quarter-inch plywood was cut by CNC router, which helped speed up the much needed time to finish.

Mike and I then assembled the hundreds of parts. He added strength as well as diversity—notice each structure is different. Then all was transported to Provincetown where I have been able to paint!

The fabrication and painting of *The Arrival*, 1620, gives us a “set” as well as an “installation”. As a set, the performative aspect is made by you, the viewer, the audience walking through and among the characters, absorbing the history as you weave in and out.

Enjoy your walk-through adventure!

FROM THE CURATOR, BREON DUNIGAN

In 2018, the PAAM Exhibition Committee was tasked with coming up with some ideas for the upcoming Town-Wide Celebration commemorating the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Mayflower and the “Pilgrims” occurring in 2020. The Committee had recently approved a proposal for an exhibition of work by Mimi Gross. The approved exhibition had yet to be

precisely defined and the Committee agreed to broach the idea of creating a site specific installation commemorating the “Arrival” with Mimi.

Mimi Gross’ past installations had taken on serious subject matter with passion, integrity, humility and a bit of wry wit. We thought she would be the perfect person to create a piece for this occasion.

She did not agree right away! Not only was the scale of the project daunting, but, more importantly, the subject matter. Her dubiousness stemmed mainly from the Eurocentric account of the arrival and the subsequent settling in the “New World”. It was important to her that the events be largely seen through the eyes of the Native population.

Mimi Gross has created an environment commemorating a moment in time from the perspective of an artist. She envisions the bow of the Mayflower crashing into a thriving community. The occupants are sick and weary, contrasted by the Native Tribes who are farming, fishing and going on about their daily business. This artist is presenting us with a unique vision of her desire to understand the complexities of the moment, with beauty, passion and some of that wry wit.

I am extremely grateful that Mimi Gross agreed to take on this monumental piece and have been honored to become closer to her and her work in the process.

I am truly grateful to Chris McCarthy for supporting the project above and beyond, particularly in these uneasy times. Thanks to the generous supporters of the exhibition and the PAAM staff who are always incredibly helpful and patient.

PROVINCETOWN ART ASSOCIATION AND MUSEUM



A nationally recognized, year-round cultural institution, PAAM fuses the creative energy of America's oldest active art colony with the natural beauty of outer Cape Cod that has inspired artists for generations.

ADMISSION + HOURS

General admission: \$12.50

Free for PAAM members and those under 16

Days and times are subject to change. Please visit us at paam.org/tickets or call 508-487-1750 for our current hours and ticket availability.

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This project was supported in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which receives support from the State of Massachusetts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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