

## Regalia of the Siren Priestess

As priestesses of the deep the sirens of greek mythology held the mysteries of the borderspaces between land and sea, priestessing the passage of lost mariners into the netherworld. It was said that the ravishing beauty of their birdlike forms was irresistible to the lonely sailor lost in the mighty ocean swells, and it was said that the beauty of their song lured these souls to their deaths.

This piece brings alive dead rusted twisted wire and fallen branches from the beach of Toronto Island and adorns it with beauty. Fashioned in the form of a headdress, it is a tribute to these priestesses for the service they gave in their offering of beauty to the dying. It asks for re-interpretation of the mythological misinformation that demonizes the beauty of women. It invites a reframing of the role of these mysterious woman/bird beings and an acknowledgement of the divine gift of their priestessing.

This piece was conceived during the Call of the Sirens workshop offered by sound artist Wende Bartley and visual artist Barbara Bickel at Artscape Gibraltar Point on Sunday June 13, 2010.

Medwyn McConachy – Gibraltar Point, Toronto Island – July 2010