

SITTING THE TIDE, RODEO BEACH (2009)

Very early on October 2, 2009, the artist descended from the Battery Alexander parking lot to the south end of Rodeo beach, and sat alone on a rock outcropping at the base of the cliffs. He remained from 4:30 a.m. until 5 p.m., low tide to low tide.

At high tide the artist's rock was inaccessible except by water, and the artist was embayed: isolated between the surf and a small fjord.

A cell phone with intermittent service, a book, and a media player were brought as talismans of distraction. Each was considered, and denied; the artist's attention was saved for the tide.

The complete tidal cycle was documented in a stereo recording, with one conventional microphone and one hydrophone (underwater microphone).

The recording that resulted is the basis of the companion work *RODEO SOUNDIAL (after Prometheus)*.

NOTE

The artist invites the public to sit the tide as well, following the instructions provided.

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR REPRODUCING THE ARTIST'S EXPERIENCE

IDENTIFY A TIDE

Refer to tide prediction charts for Point Bonita, California, for the month you intend to sit the tide at Rodeo Beach.

Identify the day or days in the tidal cycle displaying the greatest symmetry between the two daily tides. Look for the moment in a graphical representation of water levels when the two high tides and two low tides are both closest to one another. Select a low tide to low tide cycle for which the low tide is some hours before sunrise.

This is the tide you will sit.

PACK

In a small backpack prepare two lightweight low trash nutritious meals, waterproof and warm clothing including a spare pair of dry socks, a headlamp, sunglasses, hat, sunscreen, a blanket and pillow, a towel, a waterproof tarp or picnic pad, a trash bag, tissues, at least two liters of water, chocolate, and a flask of single malt scotch.

Bring a book you are enjoying, a fully charged and loaded media player, and a cell phone (preferably with internet access).

This is the infrastructure for your sit.

TAKE POSITION

Park at the unpaved parking lot below Battery Alexander (off Field Road) approximately half an hour before low tide.

Find the small sign identifying the narrow trail to 'South Rodeo Beach.' Descend through the dunes, noting the clanging or lowing of the buoy offshore and any coyotes, the fragrant predawn air, and lush carpet of invasive iceplant. Take care with the sand stairs, the fresh water seep at their base, and the skunk or sea lion carcass that may be on the beach.

Round the rock spur to the left (south) end of the beach; at low tide there should be no need to wade. Follow the cliffs to the southernmost edge of the beach and then out towards the water, hugging the cliff wall. Carefully ascend the slippery solid rock spur with loose rocks at its foot. Proceed along the rocks, trending slightly down and to the right, always above the water line. There is a large relatively flat area past a usually-flooded shallow pool some fifty feet or so out, bounded on the western (seaward) side by a 10' deep miniature fjord (beyond this flat, progress would require a precarious climb).

This is the location you will sit.

SIT

Sit the tide.

Deny yourself the book, media player, and phone.

Please provide the artist with an account of this experience. (Contact information at quietamerican.org).