IN CONVERSATION

MARIE LORENZ
with Jarrett Earnest

Snowflakes were falling soft and thick on the February morning I met Marie Lorenz in Bushwick, and, à la “My Favorite Things,” it stuck to our noses and eyelashes while we loaded her fiberglass rowboat into a U-Haul van. The boat turned out to be two feet too long and kept the rear doors from closing. Unconcerned, Lorenz just tied them together with rope, leaving the back open for snow to blow into, which it did periodically. We drove like this to a nearby inlet, carrying the boat down to the water’s edge over rocky black mud covered by fresh white snow. She told me the tide was very high. Once we set the boat into the water I stepped inside, crawling to the bow, and with a single suave gesture she gave it a shove and hopped in herself. Marie paddled us into the center of the channel, flanked on both sides by assorted industrial machinery. Bobbing there, facing each other, I turned on my audio recorder:

**Rail:** What are you working on for your residency at Recess (New York, March 12 – May 7, 2016)?

**Lorenz:** The Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey has a giant tank where they test the hydrodynamics of ship hulls, called the “oblique sea basin.” I proposed to make a smaller version at Recess to test things out. But I also want it to be like the wave pools at the Exploratorium in San Francisco. I want to try and make a rocking mechanism so you can see how a wave forms. The tide is gravitational—the gravitational pull of the sun and the moon—and the pool at Recess will use the earth’s gravity to see how water moves. I’ll experiment with floating video cameras and microphones, and do some performances with the wave pool. It will also be an experiment just to get several tons of water into the gallery.