

GAGOSIAN GALLERY

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Inside Art

Robin Pogrebin

A Fiery 'Rockaway!'

At the Prospect.1 biennial in New Orleans in 2008, three years after Hurricane Katrina, the Berlin artist Katharina Grosse covered a dilapidated house in the Lower Ninth Ward with orange and yellow.

Now, four years after Hurricane Sandy, she is bringing her spray paint to Fort Tilden's decaying aquatics building in Queens, covering it in the fiery red of a Rockaways sunset.

Beginning on Fourth of July weekend and continuing through Thanksgiving, Ms. Grosse's outdoor exhibition is part of "Rockaway!," MoMA PS1's programming that began in 2013 with Bloomberg Philanthropies. Fort Tilden, a former military base, is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area.

Klaus Biesenbach, the director of MoMA PS1, said that Ms. Grosse is going to "use the landscape and architecture as a canvas."

The partners on "Rockaway!" include the National Park Service, the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy and Rockaway Artists Alliance. After the exhibition, the aquatics building will be razed by the park service as part of its Hurricane Sandy recovery program.

"Here's a very beautiful found object," said Mr. Biesenbach, who has a house in the Rockaways. "It has history as being a military fortress, as being ecologically changed because of the hurricane. Now it's being restored to its natural habitat."



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A rendering of Katharina Grosse's "Rockaway!," which involves Fort Tilden's decaying aquatics building in Queens.