

Ocean Waves in the Desert Sky

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Background

Set in a desert-like environment, the piece is a wind-activated, large scale kinetic sculpture that uses ocean imagery and sound. Windcatchers that resemble ocean waves are suspended above a rooftop to rotate and power the sound of ocean waves at street level. Windcatchers move in circular and vertical patterns in response to wind. This creates the visual effect of undulating ocean waves. Attached to the windcatchers is boating rope that extends down the side of the building to turn an ocean wave sound machine for the viewer to hear.



Narrative

I live in the desert, it's hot and breezy. I see what looks like a mirage, water waves and a sailboat undulating in the sky. Have my eyes deceived me?

I walk through town. I hear an unexpected sound, the sound of the ocean. I turn my head to locate the sound. Near my ear, hanging along the side of the building, I see a nautilus emitting the sound of waves.

I stop. My eyes see boating rope attached to the nautilus. I follow the rope up to the rooftop. A large rotating circle of waves is moving in the wind. In the sun they shimmer with multiple shades of blue as if the sun was hitting real waves on the ocean.

I continue walking. My mind is swept away to memories of time spent by the water. Time with family and friends enjoying life.