

Rubbed Bubble

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“Decoloniality is a response to an ongoing conduction of coloniality” (Siddiqi 2020, 139). The Rubbed Bubbles Pavilion represents the different frame-times that have shaped the contemporary reality of Morningside. Periods that unavails a history of frictions between the inhabitants of Manhattan by stories of settler colonialism, slavery, gentrification and displacement. Likewise, Columbia University moved uptown searching for expanding land and becoming a campus, creating a fictional and elitized landscape of concrete and granite at the expense of Harlem. Hence, Rubbed Bubbles is conceived to take into account a complex history of disputes by juxtaposing its stories into a suspended element. A phantasmagoric representation that lifts the silhouette of the flatten aridity of Columbia, taking back a lost topography, as well as bringing the image of the Harlem grid by densifying open space. The pavilion, composed of two layers of metallic meshes, are filled by drain water and covered by fabric to create an ambivalent and shifting skin over seasons. Conceived to emphasize the flooding happening in Harlem’s lower land and preventing bird-strikes. Then, while the exterior reminisces the former landscape, the interior creates an introspective space for reflection, while allowing open activities.

