

TÈKÈNE

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TÈKÈNE invokes the paradox of the Ship of Theseus: could a small section of the Manahatta forest return, if replaced by its components? The proposal elects to reposition reclaimed timber, a byproduct of the contemporary Manhattan machine, into the stance of its predecessor, the forest which had covered most of Manhattan and allowed the Lenape to construct the canoes to traverse the Hudson centuries before the first European ships arrived. Suspended within a tensegrity structure spanning between Avery and Fayerweather Halls, the struts become an extension of the four trees in Avery Courtyard. The proposal encourages the viewer to remember the role of Manhattan's primordial forest as a progenitor of the city. Although the original forest is long past revival, as sunlight filters through a canopy of remnants, its ambience is briefly restored.

When its term as a spectacle within Avery Courtyard has come to a close, TÈKÈNE is intended to be mobilized to a permanent resting place in Inwood Hill Park, a testament against Shorakkopoch Rock and the fictitious narrative of Manhattan as a land "sold" rather than taken.

