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## **JAMES HERMAN** (b.1985, USA)

James Herman's work deals with the ways in which we inhabit space and the natural environment. His multi-disciplinary practice utilizes nature-play, formalism, and the assemblage of found materials to create architecture, sculpture, and design. Hidden in a fruit grove situated on a hillside in Lincoln Heights, Los Angeles, Herman lives in a house that he built himself, thoughtfully placed into the existing environment. With his nearby studio made primarily out of an antique mail-order car-port found on site, the compound, named "Glass Island Studio," further alludes to his dependence on locally sourced material. In this way, Herman's processes, materials, and language become applicable to both the worlds of sculptural art and of formal architectural design. His reliance on found-materials and living inside of his work contribute to the notion of being in the world that allows him to experiment on and reconfigure his space over time, becoming a sculpture in itself. The ease and accessibility of the material processes and ways of building he employs, not only openly drawing from vernacular building techniques but also modernism, propagate this transformative and investigative way of existing that manifests both through living and working on and in a space.

Herman's commission for the Cabrillo National Monument in San Diego, made primarily of found materials in the area, responds heavily to its natural environment. Located in a peninsula that is the only place in the park where the sunset and sunrise are both visible to the viewer, the monument references both an existing monument on the site to the conquistador Juan Cabrillo and also the white crests of the waves, boats, and gulls of the sea; the perspective of the piece further suggesting the ambiguous historical moment in time that the piece could inhabit. His work results in a reconceptualization of the viewer's experience with space, time, and the elements which make them up.

James Herman was born in Denver, Colorado in 1985. He lives and works in Los Angeles, California. Herman attended the Yale Norfolk Summer School of Art in 2010. His book *Driftwood Forts of the Oregon Coast* was published by Nestucca Spit Press in April, 2014. Recent exhibitions include Aaron Wrinkle 1978, Night Gallery, Los Angeles; On Landscape #2, Matéria, Rome; Convergence, Cabrillo National Monument, Point Loma, CA; *Aged Aquarius*, The Henry Ford Museum, Detroit, Michigan; and A Call to Place: The first five years of the Frontier Fellowship, Rio Gallery, Salt Lake City, Utah.