



# Kathleen Bitetti

*Current*

Wall Installation

2024

Work Courtesy of the Artist and Gallery Kayafas

*All works are mixed media, are frame specific, and were created in 2024.*

## ***First Shelf (top)***

*Left:*

*Spring- My childhood landscape was not land but the end of the land - the cold, salt, running hills of the Atlantic- Sylvia Plath*

*Right:*

*Summer- My childhood landscape was not land but the end of the land - the cold, salt, running hills of the Atlantic.- Sylvia Plath*

## ***Second Shelf***

*Left:*

TOTAUNT (Boston) -Atlantikos

*Left Middle:*

TOTAUNT (Boston) - Sea of Atlas

*Right Middle:*

TOTAUNT (Boston)- Atlantic

*Right:*

TOTAUNT (Boston)- 14.5994° S, 28.6731° W

## ***Third Shelf***

*Left:*

*Fall- My childhood landscape was not land but the end of the land - the cold, salt, running hills of the Atlantic.- Sylvia Plath*

*Right:*

*Winter- My childhood landscape was not land but the end of the land - the cold, salt, running hills of the Atlantic.- Sylvia Plath*

## ***Fourth Shelf (Bottom)***

*Shells collected from K Street Beach (Old Harbor Beach) South Boston, MA.*

## **Kathleen Bitetti- Current Artist Statement**

*My childhood landscape was not land but the end of the land - the cold, salt, running hills of the Atlantic. I sometimes think my vision of the sea is the clearest thing I own. - Sylvia Plath*

I have always lived near the Atlantic Ocean- so close that I could always see it when I walked out my front door. I don't think I could ever live far from its shores. In 2020, during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was lucky to be able to take daily walks by the Atlantic Ocean. I continue to be lucky to be able to take these walks as the global pandemic continues.

This new installation, *Current*, is comprised of two new related bodies of framed mixed media works and loose shells collected from the beach at the end of my street. The frames were all sourced from a local South Boston second hand store and each work is made

for the specific frame it is in (they are frame-specific works). All of the works include an image of the Atlantic Ocean's water that I took in South Boston during the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Both of these bodies of work reference the pending rise of the oceans due to climate change, the Atlantic Ocean, and one of the Atlantic's key currents called the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation or AMOC. A collapse of the AMOC would change weather worldwide would cause the complete shutdown of one of the key climate and ocean forces of the planet: *"Since the 1950s, AMOC's circulation strength has decreased by somewhere between 10 and 15 percent, ..... But as long as the water hasn't freshened too much from glacier melt, the conveyor belt will "keep on cranking.. [A].. recent study found that once there's enough fresh water input, the slow decline that's been happening will drop off like a cliff, and AMOC will essentially grind to a halt."*\*

The four works that are in the shadow box frames of the same size are also inspired by the above Silvia Platt quote, the four seasons, and where I currently live. Each work has a map of what is now called South Boston and these maps show where the original shore lines were and will more than likely return to with the pending rise of the oceans worldwide. In addition to the image of the Atlantic Ocean's water, each work has a different image of the beach at the end of my street as well as a piece of sea glass or pottery from that beach.

The second body of work has early maps of what is now called Boston and its original shore lines. The titles of these works include the original name for Boston used by the Massachusett peoples\*\*, Totaunt, as well as one of the different ways the Atlantic has been referred to over time. The oyster shells in two of these works are from the Boston Common and are over 400 years old. The Massachusett peoples would harvest oysters from the then Atlantic Ocean shoreline (where Charles Street is now) and they would clean/shuck the oysters using water from a spring that originated near where the Massachusetts State House is located.

This installation is a reminder to all that we are living on Native Land and that the Atlantic Ocean has the power to change the existing shore lines at any time.

\*Quote from: *Run AMOC by Anna Gibbs, Slate.com February 17, 2024.*

\*\* Information from *The Massachusett Tribe at Ponkapoag's* webpage: <http://massachusetttribe.org/we-are-the-massachusett>