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School of the Arts  
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This is to certify that the thesis prepared by Jacqueline H. Crowley entitled THE MARINHIEROS PROJECT: ROSENEATH RD & PATTERSON AVE has been approved by his or her committee as satisfactory completion of the thesis or dissertation requirement for the degree of Master of Fine Art

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THE MARINHIEROS PROJECT: ROSENEATH RD & PATTERSON AVE

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University.

by

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## Abstract

### THE MARINHIEROS PROJECT: ROSENEATH RD & PATTERSON AVE

By Jacqueline H. Crowley, MFA

A Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Fine Arts at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Virginia Commonwealth University, 2005

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In questioning the very nature of a thing, at its most basic level, a new assessment can be made of what the thing in question truly is. When we ask ourselves, what is a weed, we begin to pull the word apart – to decrypt the word from the cultural baggage that has collected around it over the course of the history of language.

The cultural connotations of ‘weed’ cling to it like barnacles, removing the word from its true value. We reevaluate meaning, chronicling all the possible constructions of a word, all the possible varieties, where it came from, what its uses are, etc. We can then begin to develop an aggregate meaning based on an inherently more textured meaning, built to sustain an elaboration of new information within the word itself.

Weeds may serve as a successful metaphor for humanities quest for value, but it should not be assumed – we must first plot a course before we set sail.

## The Marinhieros Project: Roseneath Rd & Patterson Ave

A weed is defined as a weed not through science but through culture. The marinhieros project is an on-going inquiry into the way we determine value, how we use space and how we negotiate the territory in which we spend our days. A landscape is a dynamic place, through placing my actions in it, I recontextualize the place I live - in an immediate way, a way that others can co-opt and use as well.

Working in my studio, in a new town, object making became too removed from the world of the day to day. I felt separated from the people around me; I didn't know what my role was in Richmond, Virginia. I wanted to create a project in which I thrust an action into the place I live, then let the action take on a life of its own, to create an experiment in place. I felt the need to connect with this town in a very direct manner, to stake territory, plot a course, and basically figure out where I am.

This book is a journal, a logbook, and occasionally an itinerary, of my thoughts and research on this particular series of works. Since the series is still in progress, the book will be published in stages, each one dealing with a particular project. This book begins the series, and is about the research which went into the work entitled 'Roseneath Rd & Patterson Ave.'

While the book and the piece are related, it is not necessary for one to encounter both at the same time. The book and the art installation inform each other, but they exist

separately in the world. The idea behind creating a book is to propagate art works in other media, increase the possibility that my ideas, my experiments, will take root with someone else. The book is designed to be rhizomatic, and so it includes seed images from the next piece in the series, 'Land wars...Oregon Hill,' which will be published at the end of the summer. The first volume book, from which this is excerpted, is available for viewing in the special collections section of the James Branch Cabell Library, Virginia Commonwealth University.

APPENDIX











