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Seasteading

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Seasteading

I.

E Mare Libertas

Seasteading seeks to move human communities
out into the vast expanse of sea

smothering the globe. The oceans contain
99 percent of the living space on earth

and we want that space.

II.

The Final Frontier

Her lips move
and we know what she is saying

the woman in the hot pink

skirt suit, her new blonde hair
hired to boost

the seasteading movement:

“Floating cities are the next frontier,”

she says and senses the host
of this cable news show is about to interrupt,
about to say something

intended to highlight her gender,
so she rushes the next line:

“All the surface area on this planet is occupied.”

She is good

at her job so his smug jowls rest

while she speaks
about the need for space, more space

to experiment
with new ways of living.

But then the host reaches
across the table, grabs
squeezes her hand in one oil slick gesture

*Tell me dear,
who is allowed to live on this floating city?*

her lipstick flakes as the camera
zooms in on her face

and we can tell it wasn't the pale hand
of the host, but his question

that woke in her eyes
an animal kingdom of jealousy

as she fears both her own exclusion

and the inclusion of all

others

in parachutes
descending upon the high seas.



III.

Democracy

“...leads to unrest, runaway spending, and a tyrannical government.”
—Frank Karsten, *Beyond Democracy*

IV.

Entrepreneurial Opportunities

on the sea they might sell fish
to passers-by on boats
 or they might sell fish
to other like-minded people afloat

 on the floating city

the word *selfish* is seventeenth-century
Presbyterian, first used
in reference to events of the year 1641

which could be any number
of events, including but not limited to
the Iroquois declaring war against New France,
the Dutch seizure of Malacca
 (or the Dutch capture of Angola),
or the Irish Rebellion in Ulster

self-ful, self-ended, self-seeking:
synonyms used during the Early Modern era

how else to sell fish?
 freeze, pack, ship
 (no need to heed the regulations)
 string a metal needle
 through the eyes, brine
 hang dry and vacuum pack

or they might not sell it at all
but fry it on a Friday,
swallow as much as they can

and bury the rest at sea

V.

Recruiting

Please complete this survey:

Why would you choose to live on a seastead?

(click all that apply)

- Opportunity to experiment with new governance
- Preference for small communities
- Solitude
- Love of the sea
- Desire to pioneer a new way of life
- Commercial advantages of conducting an offshore enterprise

Would you want to operate a business from the seastead?

If yes, what kind of business would you like to operate?

Do you own more than one home?

What is the total value of your real estate assets?

How many days a year do you spend on vacation?

Do you own a timeshare?

If you own a timeshare, how much do you pay for it annually?



VI.

Ephemerisle

Ephemerisle is a floating celebration
of community and seasteading.

There are no tickets, no central organizers,
and no rangers to keep you safe.

Ephemerisle prepares us
for our future world through five days
of floating

on the Sacramento River Delta.

You must practice radical self-reliance.
You must build a boat.

There is limited space. There are no rangers
to keep you safe.

You are free to do what you want.
You must conform to the island commodore's rules.
There are no rangers to keep you safe.

You are free to do what you want.
You can sleep in the nude.
You can eat all of your food.
You can carve trees in your calves
with a switchblade or machete.

You can horde life jackets and flares.
You can snort several lines of pure white Prague.
You can keep your drawbridge raised.

You can hoist a flag
depicting buckteeth biting watermelon,
but there are no rangers to keep you safe.
You can dress your feet in pink FiveFingers.
You can have ten wives

and your way
with their daughters (and sons).

You can not give a shit. You can sink your boat.

VII.

Manifest Destiny

the right to expand:

like a Chinese fan (bamboo and paper, feathers under a roof)
or salt water taffy (stretching from mouth to mouth)

like a uterus (the inching baby kicking)
or earth's flowing mantle (the sea floor spreading)

just like the puffer fish (large with poison)
or the cobra flaring its hood (before the venom, before the kill)

