

ART GALLERIES—DOWNTOWN

Ellie Ga

In 2015, the peripatetic video artist, who recently relocated from Brooklyn to Stockholm, was in the Greek islands to research messages in bottles. (The first one was probably launched by Aristotle's student Theophrastus, around 310 B.C.) When Ga began volunteering with Syrian refugees arriving on boats, she kept her camera running. The resulting half-hour-long video includes voice-over interviews with a Dutch beachcomber and an English collector of driftwood, and juxtaposes lingering shots of peacefully lapping Aegean tides with desperate shouts of “*Ya, Allah!*” and piles of abandoned orange life jackets. It's a loosely gathered bundle of meditations on distance, dislocation, and identity, as thought-provoking as it is discomfiting.