

## Detroit artist Hocking turns Port Austin barn into boat

October 23, 2015



Detroit artist Scott Hocking stands near the front of his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an upside down Ark at a farm in Port Austin on Fri., Oct. 23, 2015. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press

Detroit artist [Scott Hocking](#) has earned national and international attention for his creations – often out-sized sculptures built from found or existing materials. Some of them can be seen in top museums or galleries, while others were built for specific locations, such as a widely discussed installation completed in 2009 at the Packard Plant.

The site for his latest work might come as a surprise to some, since he's known for exploring urban locales and themes. Over roughly the past three months, he's been working in rural Port Austin (in Michigan's thumb), turning a dilapidated barn into a boat. The finished project is scheduled to be celebrated with an unveiling at 5 p.m. Saturday. Hocking calls it "a strange amalgamation of a barn and a boat and a spaceship and a sculpture. It's just a mix of things."

Hocking spoke at length about the inspiration for the project – and some of the skepticism it has met – with the Free Press' "Detours" arts and entertainment podcast.

**DETROIT FREE PRESS** 'Detours' podcast

Ferndale's Signature Tattoo, the Detroit Fall Beer Festival, artist Scott Hocking, United Sound Systems Studios and the weekend's best bets are spotlighted in this episode of the Detroit Free Press' culture podcast, 'Detours.' Rob St. Mary hosts.

**Steve Byrne, Detroit Free Press Staff Writer** *October 22, 2015*

One of Detroit's most celebrated visual artists, [Scott Hocking](#) is known for defying expectations. One of his latest projects is no exception. In rural Port Austin (in the northern tip of Michigan's Thumb), he's been turning a dilapidated barn into an ark-like object. The unveiling of the installation is being celebrated with an event Saturday. Hocking talks about the inspiration behind it and more.

Hosted weekly by arts journalist [Rob St. Mary](#), with an assist from Free Press arts & entertainment editor [Steve Byrne](#), "Detours" offers new episodes each Thursday. Listen at [freep.com](#), or [subscribe at iTunes](#).



Detroit artist Scott Hocking works on finishing his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an ark at a farm in Port Austin on Friday October 23, 2015. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Detroit artist Steve Coy (right) of Hygienic Dress League and Jim Boyle (left) co-founder of Public Art Pool Space help survey the surrounding area with Detroit artist Scott Hocking. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Detroit artist Scott Hocking nails boards onto a structure from a dilapidated barn. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press



Detroit artist Scott Hocking works on attaching boards while finishing his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an upside down Ark at a farm in Port Austin. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Detroit artist Scott Hocking (center) shares a laugh with Hygienic Dress League artists Dorota Coy and Steve Coy as they stand with their child Luca Coy and their dog Theo as Hocking works on finishing his latest art piece. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press



Detroit artist Scott Hocking works on attaching boards while finishing his latest art piece. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press



Artist Steve Coy (left) of Hygienic Dress League, checks out the space as Jim Boyle, co-founder of Public Art Pool Space, helps hand boards to Detroit artist Scott Hocking as he works on finishing his latest art piece. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Jim Boyle, co-founder of Public Art Pool Space, helps hand boards to Detroit artist Scott Hocking as he works on finishing his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an upside down Ark at a farm in Port Austin on Friday October 23, 2015. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press



Detroit artist Scott Hocking is seen behind boards from a dilapidated barn he used while finishing his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an ark at a farm in Port Austin. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Detroit artist Steve Coy (left) of Hygienic Dress League and Jim Boyle (right) co-founder of Public Art Pool Space help survey the surrounding area with Detroit artist Scott Hocking. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press



Detroit artist Scott Hocking's latest art piece, turning a dilapidated barn into an ark, is seen at a farm in Port Austin on Friday October 23, 2015. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press





Detroit artist Scott Hocking works on attaching boards while finishing his latest art piece turning a dilapidated barn into an upside down Ark at a farm in Port Austin on Friday October 23, 2015. Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press