



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 31, 2023

Bay Ridge Through an Ecological Lens

Curated by Jennifer McGregor
April 15 - June 17, 2023

Opening reception | April 15, 3-6 PM
Gallery Hours: Saturdays, 12-3 PM and by appointment.

Public Programming:

- April 22: Kate Dodd – Reception for *Bay Ridge Tree Collection* at Bay Ridge Public Library. Time: 2:00 PM
- May 6: Sergey Jiviten – “Furrow” performance - Narrows Botanical Garden: Time TBD, pre-registration required
- May 13: E.J. McAdams and Jimbo Blachly poetry walk/ Owl’s Head Park- followed by community tea with [Tea Arts and Culture](#) at Narrows Botanical Garden: 1:00 PM, pre-registration required
- May 21: Ecoartspace Virtual Talk with Jeannine Bardo, Kate Dodd, Nikki Lindt, Jennifer McGregor and Patricia Watts, at 11:00 AM
- June 8: *Brooklyn Through an Ecological Lens*, Film Screening: June 8, Time TBD,
- June 17: Closing Reception, 3:00-6:00 PM.
- Additional programming (artist talks, art walks, workshops...) to be determined.

Participating artists: [Rebecca Allan](#), [Aaron Asis](#), [Chris Costan](#), [Kate Dodd](#), [Peter Edlund](#), [Kristin Reiber-Harris](#), [Ellen Coleman-Izzo](#), [Sergey Jiviten](#), [Nathan Kensinger](#), [Rita Leduc](#), [Christopher Lin](#), [Nikki Lindt](#), [E.J. McAdams](#)/
[Jimbo Blachly](#), [Nancy Nowacek](#) in collaboration with [Carla Kihlstedt](#) and [Carlos Alomar](#), [Benjamin Swett](#)

Participating Filmmakers: [Aaron Assis](#), [Jenny Schweitzer Bell](#), [Nate Dorr](#), [Sean Hanley](#), [Nathan Kensinger](#), [Emily Packer](#) and [Lesley Steele](#), and [Kristin Reiber-Harris](#)

Project Partners

[Alpine Cinema](#)
6817 5th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11220

[Bay Ridge Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library](#)
<https://www.bklynlibrary.org/locations/bay-ridge>
7223 Ridge Blvd. at 73rd St, Brooklyn, NY 11209

[PrintSpace Brooklyn](#)
509 Senator Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220

[New York City Parks](#)

[Fifth Avenue BID](#)

[Narrows Botanical Garden](#)
Shore Road between Bay Ridge Ave and 72nd St
Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY 11209

Sponsors: [Balady](#) – [Ridgewood Savings Bank](#)– [The Brooklyn Firefly](#) – [Cafe Caffe](#) – [Greenhouse Cafe](#) – [Ocean Horizons Scuba](#) – [Tanoreen](#) – [5th Avenue BID](#) – [Cellary](#) – [ALC Italian Grocery](#) – [Sapporo](#) – [Skinflints](#) - [Flagstar Bank](#) - [ecoartspace](#)

Stand4 Gallery
Community Art Center

414 78th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11209

stand4gallery.org
contact@stand4gallery.org

Jeannine Bardo
Founder, Director
jbardo.stand@gmail.com
(917) 842-7958

BAY RIDGE, BROOKLYN, NY —

Stand4 Gallery will host the community project, *Bay Ridge Through an Ecological Lens*, curated by [Jennifer McGregor](#) in collaboration with [ecoartspace](#). This interactive, public, community art exhibition will feature artists from the New York area and consist of nature walks and community interventions in various locations throughout the Bay Ridge community.

Artists were selected for their knowledge and skills in social practice and ecology and will include works that highlight environmental issues that are relevant to Bay Ridge.

New York curator and arts planner, Jennifer McGregor brings deep expertise in the areas of art, ecology, gardens, public engagement and placemaking. McGregor's visionary thinking combined with a realistic approach is key to projects that engage communities, diverse sites, and multiple art forms. She led Wave Hill's place-based, ecologically oriented programming for many years prior to working independently. She writes and speaks regularly about public and environmental art.

[Stand4 Gallery](#) is an artist-run community art space founded by artist [Jeannine Bardo](#) that has been bringing fine arts programming into the heart of Bay Ridge since 2017.

Stand4's mission is *to bring visual arts programming to the center of the community and to serve as a catalyst to create a socially and environmentally just and sustainable future, inclusive of community voices and inspired by local interests.*

Projects in the Community [MAP](#)

Aaron Asis delves into the histories of underappreciated spaces throughout the city with the idea that looking back in time helps us to appreciate the present and encourages a sustainable vision for the future. His neighborhood inspired mural for the Alpine Cinema's iconic marquee and interior lobby recontextualizes historic images of Bay Ridge with statements from residents. The temporal paper mural is applied with wheat or wallpaper paste, in line with the environmental objectives of this exhibition.

Kate Dodd created the *Bay Ridge Tree Collection*, a collaborative artwork with three components for the Bay Ridge Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. By focusing on the 199 different tree species in Bay Ridge, the project raises awareness of the role street trees play in managing climate change. Street trees are honored as tree forms in the lobby windows. These contain a collection of mini books that feature contributions by community members who celebrate an individual tree through observations or artifacts dedicated to that particular tree. Some of the groups who participated are: Fort Hamilton High School, Bay Ridge Environmental Group, Bay Ridge Connects Senior Center, Bay Ridge Library Teen Group and other community members. Finally, the library lamps display poems written about Bay Ridge trees by artists E. J. McAdams and Jimbo Blachly who are part of the exhibition. Kate was awarded a Fellows Forum grant from Design Trust for Public Space for this project.

Chris Costan addresses a range of ecological issues that are relevant to Bay Ridge including: the unique role Diamondback Terrapins play in coastal ecosystems as the only North American turtle, the geological history of the Narrows, the threatened habitat for horseshoe crabs who lay their eggs near Coney Island Creek and the use of their 'blue blood' as a healing agent by the pharmaceutical companies. Costan created three different prints as interventions in storefronts on the 5th Avenue corridor. The original paintings and texts are on view at Stand4 Gallery.

Peter Edlund is a Bay Ridge resident who created "Those who Transplant, will Sustain: Brooklyn's Botanical Newcomers" banners along Shore Road Park at intervals between Bay Ridge Avenue and 101st Street. The image is based on an 1872 photograph of Colonial Harbor Cove which was situated between present day 73rd and 79th Streets. Native flora painted in blue includes cattails, milkweed, sumac and sassafras. The sassafras leaf is a contemporary symbol for the Lenape homeland, Lenapehoking. Introduced plants painted in brown include from left to right; Japanese knotweed, London plane trees, phragmites reeds and ailanthus tree. The original painting will be at Stand4 along with one of the banners.

Rita Leduc explores the porous boundaries that occur on all scales. Her site specific project *Field Marks* explores a series of thresholds within the neighborhood at Owl's Head Park, Narrows Botanical Garden, American Veterans Memorial Pier, and Stand4 Gallery. To call attention to these places of transition she combines visual data collected on site into 8" x 8" acrylic tiles attached to fences or railings. These markers encourage viewers to pause and be aware of the transition to and from a place. A fourth marker is installed in front of Stand4. In the gallery she exhibits a composite collage and drawing of all the sites.

Nikki Lindt created *The Underground Sound Project, Bay Ridge; Within The Upper Bay*, an interdisciplinary project connecting visitors to the underwater sounds at American Veterans Memorial Pier. Through a QR code with personal device and headphones visitors hear the recordings of dramatic sounds within the waters; some reflect the broader natural ecosystem while others are deeply affected by human impact. Voices of community members with strong ties to the bay reveal our dynamic, complicated relationship with a complex underwater ecosystem. Included in the piece are the community voices of Wing Cho a fisherman, George Jackman a cop who became an environmental activist and professor, and Phyllis Ho a cold water swimmer.

Special Public Program

Sergey Jiveten will present *Furrow for Bay Ridge*, a workshop where he invites people to bring a seed with special significance along with the story of their connection to the seed. He hand-engraves his interpretation of the story into the seed during the conversation to give the participant a voice and to make a connection with his collaborators. The event takes place at Narrows Botanical Gardens on May 6. Pre-registration is required to participate with a seed, but visitors are encouraged to watch the process. The completed seeds will be on view at Stand4 Gallery following the event. Since 2017, the Furrow project has traveled to venues around the country to engage local communities in a seed alteration and germination/development experiment.

At Stand4 Gallery

Rebecca Allan is a painter, horticulturist and writer who thinks deeply about the seasonal cycles, labor that goes into tending a garden and the way that nature and human made structures accommodate each other. Turning her attention to Bay Ridge she painted *Conflated Landscape, Bay Ridge (Narrows Botanical Garden)*. Allan will hold a drawing workshop at the senior center.

Ellen Coleman Izzo is a Bay Ridge artist who runs First Friday workshops at her Bay Ridge printmaking studio, PrintSpace. The artists who came out on March 3rd created and printed plates based on their favorite tree. The plates were also printed on a flag, happily waving outside of Stand4 Gallery for the exhibition.

E. J. McAdams and Jimbo Blachly orchestrate *PLAIN/AIR/ECOLOGIES/COLLECTIVE/LINK/BAG* a series of walks with friends and Bay Ridge community members in Owl's Head Park, the western end of the terminal moraine in Brooklyn and the ancestral lands of the Canarsie. The walks are inspired by their interpretation of ancient Chinese poet Li's composing process (the "bag") and a desire to write poetry collectively outdoors in the *plein-air* style, in an effort to deeply experience our ecological interconnectedness. The artists present these linked verses in the Stand4 Gallery along with a single diptych collaboratively penned in their early visits to Owl's Head. Their walk on May 13 will be hosted with Tea Arts and Culture.

Nancy Nowacek presents a sound work entitled *Long Distance Dedication No 3, Crosstalk*, in collaboration with composers Carla Kihlstedt and Carlos Alomar. Nowacek notes that the 1970s "witnessed numerous energy and financial crises: Watergate, OPEC, gas shortages, droughts, and burning rivers, to name a few. With these events came a pervading sense of tumult, catastrophe, and anxiety. A sense of loss was reflected in popular music. More chart-topping pop songs of the era proclaimed disillusionment and regret than in any prior decades." The artists are taking the refrains from these songs and composing a score that will be sung a cappella by contemporary singers. The title "Long Distance Dedication" refers to Casey Kasem's recurring feature. Thus the piece is a dedication to us during a parallel time of uncertainty. People passing Stand4 Gallery can discover the soundscape as they walk by.

Benjamin Swett Writer and photographer Benjamin Swett is a keen observer of New York trees that thrive along the city streets, in parks, front yards and at unlikely edge spaces. *American Elm on Ridge Boulevard at 72nd Street*, is one such tree that is included in his book New York City of Trees that highlights the story the trees have to tell.

Christopher Lin In *Business as Usual* Christopher Lin investigates how human behavior and urban activity affect the environment in invisible ways made apparent through chemical experimentation. To demonstrate the process of calcification, symbolic representations of the city (Statue of Liberty, Freedom Tower, and Empire State Building) stand in an aquarium with New York Harbor water. The models function as the cathodes and anodes for chemical reactions forming dystopian landscapes that slowly precipitate various metal ions. Over time these experimental samples visualize the complex chemistry of our bay waters. Iron, copper, magnesium, and aluminum leach from the water due to electrolysis like sepia snow globes while the symbols gradually calcify. As the brackish harbor water reacts to the electrical current, bubbles rise and gather at the surface emitting faint chemical odors of chlorine as salt (NaCl) separates into its individual ions. Fort Hamilton High School students will be introduced to Lin's work as observers and researchers in chemical experimentation.

Nathan Kensinger is an artist and journalist whose work explores hidden urban landscapes, post-industrial ecologies, forgotten waterways, environmental contamination, and coastal communities endangered by sea level rise and climate change. His work encompasses photography, film, installation, curation and writing. Nathan's film *Black Mayonnaise* will be on view in Stand4 Gallery. For the film series on June 8 at Alpine Cinema *Urban Growth*, directed by Nathan Kensinger and Nate Dorr will be screened.

Kristin Reiber Harris is a Bay Ridge based teaching artist/ animator whose work focuses on inspiring careful observation of the natural world. Her animated short film, *CityTREES* is about the trees in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn It will be shown at Stand4 Gallery and it will open the film series at the Alpine Cinema on June 8. *City TREES* speaks to how much the trees mean to the artist and all the important things they are doing just by "standing there" and growing.

Film Screening at Alpine Theater

Brooklyn Through An Ecological Lens is a film series on June 8 at Alpine Cinema with a focus on ecological issues in Brooklyn and the New York City waterfront: including the following films: **By Way of Canarsie** by Emily Packer and Lesley Steele, **City TREES** by Kristin Reiber Harris, **Triboro** by Nate Dorr, **Urban Growth** by Nate Dorr and Nathan Kensinger, **The Whelming Sea** by Sean Hanley, **Unforgotten Films: Hart Island** by Aaron Asis, and **Underground Sound Project** by Jenny Schweitzer Bell.

ABOUT STAND4 GALLERY

Founded in January 2017 as an artist-run initiative, Stand4 Gallery and Community Art Center's pursuit is to be alive and working towards a better world through the arts as an active medium of engagement. Stand4 serves as a generator of meaning, action, agency, collaboration, and social justice. It is shapeless, non-conforming, and responsive to the times. Stand4 is meant to exist as a catalyst: a way to envision a more socially and environmentally just future.

Housed in a former medical office in the heart of Bay Ridge, Stand4 brings the visual arts and programming to the center of the community, opening up opportunities for social, political and cultural connections and creating a discourse that bridges culture and tradition and includes new voices towards a more sustainable future inspired by local interests.

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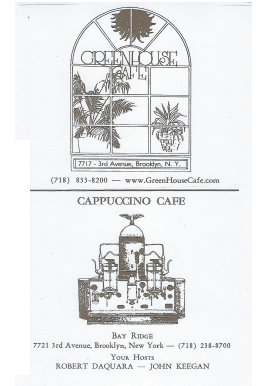


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