



BROOKLYN THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL LENS

A FILM SERIES LOOKING AT ECOLOGICAL ISSUES IN BROOKLYN AND THE NEW YORK CITY WATERFRONT

PRESENTING THE FOLLOWING FILMS

- CITY TREES** BY KRISTIN REIBER HARRIS
URBAN GROWTH BY NATE DORR & NATHAN KENSINGER
UNFORGOTTEN: HART ISLAND BY AARON ASIS & GREEN GHOST STUDIOS
TRIBORO BY NATE DORR
BENEATH OUR FEET BY JENNY SCHWEITZER BELL
BY WAY OF CANARSIE BY KREMILY PACKER & LESLEY STEELE
THE WHELMING SEA BY SEAN HANLEY

BROOKLYN THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL LENS IS PART OF BAY RIDGE THROUGH AN ECOLOGICAL LENS
CURATED BY JENNIFER MCGREGOR AND HOSTED BY STAND4 GALLERY

PRELUDE

Long Distance Dedication, No 3 (sound work) by Nancy Nowacek In collaboration with in collaboration with musician and composer Carla Khilstedt, and musician and producer, Carlos Alomar

Long Distance Dedication No 3, Crosstalk, is an al cappella vocal piece made from backing vocals from pop songs from the 1970s (and two from the 80s). It is a Greek chorus for our current climate moment, riddled with conflict and crosstalk.

This is the third sound work by Nowacek in a series inspired by the '70s, a decade that 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. On the heels of the idealism of the late 60s, the 70s bore out not just a loss of innocence, but larger feelings of loss—of national cohesion, of control at a global scale. These feelings—familiar today—were powerful enough to ignite progressive change.

FILMS

City TREES by Kristin Reiber Harris

Animation

4 minutes

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 and speaks to how much the trees mean to the artist and all the important things they are doing just by “standing there”.

Urban Growth by Nate Dorr and Nathan Kensinger

A documentary film

Directed by Nathan Kensinger and Nate Dorr

Color, 13 minutes, 2020

Urban Growth documents the evolution of Admiral's Row, a collection of 19th-century military homes located inside the Brooklyn Navy Yard. Abandoned for over 40 years, these historic mansions slowly became an important green oasis along New York City's waterfront, surrounded by a wild-growing forest of century-old trees. In 2016, the woodlands and houses were demolished to make way for a parking lot and grocery store.

Urban Growth was filmed over the course of 12 years, from 2008 to 2020. It had its World Premiere at the 2020 DOC NYC Film Festival, and its International Premiere at the Danish Film Institute, with the 2021 Copenhagen Architecture Festival.

Unforgotten Films: Hart Island by Aaron Asis

A documentary film, Color 4:42 minutes

Unforgotten Films is an award winning documentary mini-series designed to highlight under-appreciated landscapes in New York City.

Unforgotten Films is a collaborative video focused on documenting the relationship between public interests, creative efforts and governmental actions — to highlight multi-faceted narratives and to promote access & awareness throughout our cities.

“Unforgotten is a word and a feeling...we wanted to give people an opportunity to appreciate the complexity and beauty hidden within the city — from the collective voices of communities, governments, and special interest groups”

Sites: Ellis Island, Hart Island, New York State Pavilion, Renwick Ruin, Washington Square Arch, Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the Freedom Tunnel.

Unforgotten Films has been developed in collaboration Green Ghost Studios — with media support from [Untapped New York](#), funding support

from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs / Brooklyn Arts Council, and founding support from Likeminds — to explore a series of inaccessible landscapes throughout New York City.

Triboro by Nate Dorr
2021, Black and white, 7 min

A trip behind and beneath the street-level skin of the city on the hidden paths of industrial history and once-and-future transit.

The Triboro Line is a 24-mile freight rail in New York City, spanning from the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Bay Ridge, to Co-Op City in the Bronx. Once largely a passenger line, the tracks have since been reduced and repurposed, and now see only intermittent industrial use. In the absence of efficient crosstown trains or subways linking the boroughs without passing through Manhattan, transit advocacy groups have long pressed for restoration of the Triboro line to commuter service. An MTA feasibility study for conversion of the former Bay Ridge Branch, the lower eleven miles of track through Brooklyn to Fresh Pond Junction, opened in early 2020, and at last, with post-Covid infrastructure funding coming into the city and backing by the governor, the newly rechristened Interboro Express may at last see operation. Until then, through this rocky terrain, the Triboro Line runs on, rarely observed.

The film Triboro considers the Bay Ridge Branch as it exists now. From September 2019 to November 2020 Nathan Dorr hiked the length of the line, taking around 8000 still photographs at regular intervals as regulated by the spacing of the ties, one photo every two to eight ties depending on the section under consideration. By carefully aligning and interleaving these images, Dorr created a gliding time-lapse, tracking shots that travel as a train might and condensed the eleven miles of rail and four seasons of work into a seven-minute journey.

Beneath our Feet by Jenny Schweitzer Bell

A documentary film about artist Nikki Lindt's Underground Sound Project
Color, 5:13 minutes

Nikki's sound work *Within the Upper Bay* is part of Bay Ridge Through an Ecological Lens and can be encountered at The Veterans Memorial Pier (wear headphones) and at Stand4 Gallery. It is an extension of The *Underground Sound Project*, a public art installation in Prospect Park, Brooklyn.

The work explores and reveals the world of underground sound that can be heard under our feet. Did you know deep, resonant dramatic sound can be heard inside trees? Among the roots of plants, in shifting soils, in stream beds, rivers, oceans, and even in mud?

By Way of Canarsie by Emily Packer and Leslie Steele

Emily Packer Director | Editor | Cinematographer with Co-Director: Emily Packer
Color 14:17 minutes

After years of neglect by the City of New York and the devastation of Hurricane Sandy - the coastal community of Canarsie, Brooklyn wants more. Using a variety of formats, this experimental series of vignettes explores Canarsie's unique relationship to the water through recreation, resiliency, and the community's imagination for the future.

Featured in the Criterion Channel's lineup of December 2021 films, *By Way of Canarsie* made its inaugural release in a collection of films "Who Will Start Another Fire" curated by Dedza Films. Covered by Filmmaker Magazine, IDA, The Brooklyn Reader and as a part of.

The Whelming Sea by Sean Hanley

Documentary Short, 2020, HD Video, 29 minutes

Director Sean Hanley/ Colorist: Natacha Ikon

Three animal lives entangle at the edge of the sea. Horseshoe crabs spawn on eroded urban beaches, migrating shorebirds seek sustenance at a midpoint, and humans attempt to make a difference in this age of mass extinction.

Screenings: Imagine Science Film Festival, The Environmental Film Festival in the Nation's Capital.

EPILOGUE or AN AFTER WORD

Out of Paradise a Poem-Film Documentary by EJ McAdams

Five Minutes

E.J. McAdams (Animation by H.Spencer Young)

How might we embody the tragedy of climate change to invigorate our survival instincts and ultimately advocate for a stable and healthy future? Possibly by reading the words of those who have passed through one of the most devastating climate emergencies. All of the language in this documentary poem-film was transcribed and selected from media reports in the days following the Camp Fire in Paradise, CA in 2018. The poem was originally published as a [chapbook](#) by Delet-e Press - thanks to publisher Jared Schickling.

E.J. McAdams is a poet, artist and collaborator. His first book LAST comes out in September 2023 from BlazeVOX [books]. You can see his collaboration with Jimbo Blachly called PLAIN/AIR/ECOLOGIES/ COLLECTIVE/LINK/BAG at Stand4 Gallery and their collaboration with artist Kate Dodd at the Brooklyn Public Library - Bay Ridge Branch.

Stand4 Gallery received a Brooklyn Arts Fund grant for the exhibition, *Bay Ridge Through an Ecological Lens* and we would like to thank all of our generous local sponsors and supporters for making this exhibition soar!

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