

The Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center  
& Brooklyn Historical Society present

# SPACES & PLACES ART

ALONG THE  
BROOKLYN  
WATERFRONT



BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL  
MARCH 27, 2015 | 8:30AM - 12:30PM



Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center  
New York City College of Technology  
City University of New York



BROOKLYN  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY



A Living Lab  
Revitalizing General Education  
for a 21st-Century College of Technology



NEW YORK CITY  
COLLEGE OF  
TECHNOLOGY

# MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center Staff:

Richard Hanley  
Sean Scanlan  
Robin Michals  
Anne Leonard  
Adam Davidson  
Jeremiah Cox  
Jacob Lederman

## BWRC Advisory Board:

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Jonathan Peters, College of Staten Island  
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Roberta Weisbrod, Partnership for Sustainable Ports

## Brooklyn Historical Society Organizers:

Nick Bloom, Intern  
Julie Golia

#BWRC2015  
@BKLYNWaterfront

Artists and their work have played and continue to play a pivotal role in the resurgence of the Brooklyn waterfront. James Rodgers of the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition wrote in the book that accompanied the coalition's first "Open Doors" event in 1996 that, "Proximity to the mega art market systems of Manhattan and the generally more generous building sizes along...the waterfront go a long way in explaining why artists decided to settle here." While that may have been true almost thirty years ago, the scene has shifted into a higher gear. In fact, this past spring, Martha Schwendener wrote in *The New York Times* that upon entering Brooklyn, "you've entered the belly of contemporary art. It's our 19th-century Paris or 18th-century Rome, with one of the largest concentrations of artists in the world. Here, you'll find both commercial galleries and nonprofit and artist-run spaces—and thousands upon thousands of places you can visit during open-studio weekends scattered throughout the year."

Brooklyn no longer looks over its shoulder to any place, especially across the East River. But there is more to this transformation. Artists and their art have played a not insignificant role in the explosive resurgence of the Brooklyn waterfront, and now a question arises whether artists will continue to be a presence along the Brooklyn waterfront or will the forces they helped create displace them?

Today, we will hear from a panel of artists and learn about their relationship to the water and the waterfront. We will also hear others speak about making spaces available to artists and the extent to which art and artists are—or are not—being integrated into the re-development of the Brooklyn waterfront.

The conversation we are opening today will raise questions about what the art of the Brooklyn waterfront will look like, where that art will happen, and how can art, artists, and art spaces survive the waterfront's transformation. Not only our speakers, but all of us have a stake in the answers to these questions.

**Richard E. Hanley, Director**  
Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center

# PROGRAM SCHEDULE

**8:15-8:45**

**Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:45-9:00**

**Welcoming Remarks**

Richard Hanley – Director, Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center  
Bonne August – Provost, New York City College of Technology  
Deborah Schwartz – President, Brooklyn Historical Society

**9:00-9:30**

**Keynote Address**

Tom Finkelpearl, Commissioner  
New York City Department of Cultural Affairs

**9:30-10:15**

**Panel One: The Artists**

Moderator: Sean Scanlan, BWRC

Panelists: Choichun Leung  
Barry Rosenthal  
Wade Kavanaugh  
Nancy Nowacek  
Karla Stingerstein

**10:15-10:45**

**Refreshment Break**

**10:45-11:35**

**Panel Two: Places for Making, Displaying, and Selling Art I**

Moderator: Aaron Beebe, Visual Artist

Panelists: Audrey Frank Anastasi, Tabla Rasa Gallery  
Joy Glidden, North Side Town Hall Community and Cultural Center  
Gregory O'Connell Jr, The O'Connell Organization  
Anita Durst, chashama  
Kathleen Gilrain, Smack Mellon

**11:40-12:30**

**Panel Three: Places for Making, Displaying, and Selling Art II**

Moderator: Julie Golia, Brooklyn Historical Society

Panelists: Aileen Chumard, Brooklyn Navy Yard Center  
Nicole Haroutunian, *Underwater New York*  
Lisa Kim, Two Trees Management Company  
Laura Roumanos, United Photo Industries  
Tammy Pittman, Proteus Gowanus

**12:30-12:45**

**Closing**

Jacob Lederman, BWRC Artists Mapping Project  
Richard Hanley

# BIOGRAPHIES



## AUDREY FRANK ANASTASI

A curator, gallery owner/director, educator, and arts advocate, Audrey Frank Anastasi is, above all else, a prolific, tireless, and dedicated working artist. She has an extensive history of exhibiting her artwork and has been featured in many publications. She and her husband Joseph are co-founders and directors of Tabla Rasa Gallery, the first art gallery in Sunset Park, Brooklyn. They were honored by the Brooklyn Arts Council in November 2008 for their pioneering work and for their dedication to supporting fellow artists. Anastasi has been a member of the Brooklyn Arts Council's Board of Directors since 2001. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Dance Theatre Etcetera and was president of the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, the largest artist-run, visual arts nonprofit organization in Brooklyn, from 1999 to 2004.



## BONNE AUGUST

Bonne August is provost and vice president for academic affairs at New York City College of Technology/CUNY. Previously, she was chair of the English Department and professor of English at Kingsborough Community College/CUNY. Dr. August has served as Principal Investigator for two institutional projects funded by the National Science Foundation. ADVANCE IT-Catalyst (2008-2011) addressed issues facing women faculty in STEM. An NSF I3 grant, The City Tech Incubator: Interdisciplinary Partnerships for Laboratory Integration, sought to generate both external and internal partnerships to strengthen students' hands-on experiences and research. Dr. August holds a Ph.D. in English and American literature from New York University. Her professional interests and publications include work on poetry, women writers, writing assessment, portfolio assessment, articulation between high school and college, and faculty development.



## AARON BEEBE

Aaron Beebe is a visual artist, curator, and nonprofit planning consultant whose work attempts to align the language of artists with that of the institutions that house them. Bringing visual design together with strategic planning and architecture, he is both a leader and participant in the resurgence of small, quirky museums and artist-run spaces in New York.

In addition to his consulting work, Beebe has been engaged in creating museums for over a decade. He is the former director and designer of the Coney Island Museum, a space that used contemporary art to explore the history of spectacle. And he is a co-founder of the Morbid Anatomy Museum, a 21st century dime museum in the Gowanus neighborhood in Brooklyn.



## AILEEN CHUMARD

Aileen Chumard is the executive director of programs and exhibits at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Center at BLDG 92. She received her Master's Degree and Advanced Certificate in Public History from New York University in 2008. Before coming to the Navy Yard, she served as an associate curator and exhibition developer on numerous projects including two acclaimed exhibits at the New York Historical Society: *Lincoln and New York* and *Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn*. She also worked on other national projects for American History Workshop.



## ANITA DURST

Anita Durst has been a star, a muse, and a patron of the avant-garde performing arts and emerging arts scene in New York City, since she was 18. She founded chashama in 1995 following the death of her mentor and artistic professor Reza Abdoh. While performing and working in his company, Dar A Luz, she learned the value of unbridled expression and how to value art objectively. In the wake of Reza's absence, she was driven to create a place for artists free of financial and subjective constraints. Durst has worked tirelessly for over 20 years to secure over one million square feet of space in New York City for artists. She believes programs like chashama are the vital building blocks to ensuring cultural capital in New York City. She was born in New York City and was the flower child to hippy parents living in Newfoundland, Canada; Ibiza, Spain; and the suburbs of New York City. As a precocious teenager, she resisted conventional schooling. Shortly after graduating high school she moved back to New York City to help care for her grandfather. Today, Durst sits on the boards of the Tai Chi Chuan Center and Bindlestiff Family Cirkus. She is a recipient of The Black Alumni of Pratt's "Creative Spirit" Award, and she is a proud mother and loving wife who ensures her entire family eats healthy, practices mindful movement, and lives in the moment. She believes all art to be valuable.

## TOM FINKELPEARL



Tom Finkelpearl is the commissioner of the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. In this role he oversees city funding for nonprofit arts organizations across the five boroughs and directs the cultural policy for the City of New York. Prior to his appointment by Mayor Bill de Blasio, Commissioner Finkelpearl served as executive director of the Queens Museum for twelve years, overseeing an expansion that doubled the museum's size and positioning the organization as a vibrant center for social engagement in nearby communities. He also held positions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, working on the organization's merger with the Museum of Modern Art, and served as director of the Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art program. Based on his public art experience and additional research, he published a book, *Dialogues in Public Art* (MIT Press), in 2000. His second book, *What We Made: Conversations on Art and Social Cooperation* (Duke University Press, 2013), examines the activist, participatory, coauthored aesthetic experiences being created in contemporary art. He received a BA from Princeton University (1979) and an MFA from Hunter College (1983).

## KATHLEEN GILRAIN



Kathleen Gilrain is the executive director and chief curator of Smack Mellon. She oversees all aspects of programming, planning, and organizational development. Since joining the organization in 2000, she has presented the work of over 800 artists in 58 solo exhibitions and 33 group exhibitions and special projects. Gilrain launched the Artist Studio Program soon after her arrival at the organization in 2000. The program provides rent-free studio space, a \$5000 fellowship, and professional development opportunities for six artists each year. The Artist Studio Program has supported 94 artists since its inception. During her tenure at Smack Mellon, Gilrain secured a rent-free lease through 2021 on a spectacular building on the Brooklyn waterfront and secured city and private funding to rehabilitate the building as a home for Smack Mellon. Kathleen Gilrain was the executive director of Socrates Sculpture Park from 1995 to 2000 where she presented exhibitions of large-scale projects by emerging, mid-career and renowned artists. During her tenure at Socrates Sculpture Park, she worked closely with the New York City Council, the Queens Borough President, and the Parks Department to dedicate Socrates as permanent NYC parks land and embarked on a capital campaign to improve the infrastructure and the program facilities.

Gilrain is an artist and has exhibited internationally. She received a BFA from The Cooper Union, New York City, and an MFA from The University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

## JOY GLIDDEN



Joy Glidden founded the DUMBO Arts Center (DAC) and co-founded the DUMBO Art Under the Bridge Festival in Brooklyn, New York, where she served as the executive director from 1997-2006. In 2006, she relocated from Brooklyn to New Orleans where she contributed to the UNOP Cultural Plan for the City, founded the organization CVVANO (Contemporary Visual Arts Association of New Orleans), and was appointed the director of Louisiana ArtWorks, an artists' service organization. She served from 2007 to 2010. Glidden now works as an art advisor-art consultant in New York and is the executive producer and host of Art Index TV, a half-hour show on visual arts aired on PBS New Orleans and 28 of their affiliated stations.

Prior to Glidden's founding of the DUMBO Arts Center in 1997, she held jobs at commercial galleries and worked in the film industry to support her career as an artist. She was an active visual artist, performance artist, producer, director, curator, arts administrator, lecturer, and advocate for the arts.

## JULIE GOLIA



Julie Golia is the director of Public History at Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS). Currently she is leading the curatorial team for a major, long-term exhibition, "Waterfront," which will be housed in BHS's new DUMBO satellite museum opening in 2016. She is the co-founder and editor of TeachArchives.org, a robust educational website developed in collaboration with professors from City Tech and other local colleges.

## NICOLE HAROUTUNIAN



Nicole Haroutunian is an editor of *Underwater New York*, along with Helen Georgas and founding editor Nicki Pombier Berger. *Underwater New York* is a digital journal of stories, art, and music inspired by the waterways that surround New York City and the objects submerged within them. By providing a prompt and platform for new creative work, and facilitating opportunities to engage with each other and the city itself, *UNY*'s mission is to help its audience envision the city in a new way, through the landscape of its sixth borough—its waterways. Since its founding in 2009, *UNY* has published the work of more than 100 contributors, hosted events and excursions in all five boroughs, and collaborated with partners ranging from small galleries to established museums and institutions, bringing its arts, literary, and waterfront engagement programming to diverse audiences across New York City. Haroutunian works as a museum educator, teaching artist, and writer. Her short story collection, *Speed Dreaming*, was released this month.



## WADE KAVANAUGH

Wade Kavanaugh was born in Portland, Maine, and currently divides his time, living and working in Brooklyn, New York, and Albany Township, Maine. He received his BA in economics from Bowdoin College in 2001. Kavanaugh's immersive sculptural environments have been exhibited at Mass MoCA, North Adams, Massachusetts; Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan, Wisconsin; and the Portland Museum of Art, Portland, Maine. In addition to his individual work, Kavanaugh has maintained a collaborative art practice with Stephen B. Nguyen since 2005. Kavanaugh has been an artist in residence at the Macdowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire; Franconia Sculpture Park, Shafer, Minnesota; and the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, Vermont. In 2007, he received a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts, and in 2008 he received a Pollock Krasner Foundation Artist Grant.



## JACOB LEDERMAN

Jacob Lederman is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology at The Graduate Center, CUNY. His research interests include aspects of globalization, urban restructuring, and cultural change.



## LISA KIM

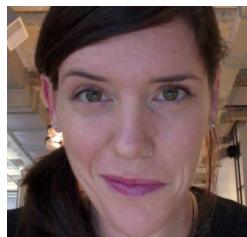
Lisa Kim is an art advisor and public art administrator based in Brooklyn. As director of cultural affairs for Two Trees Management Company, a real estate development company responsible for the development and success of the DUMBO neighborhood of Brooklyn, she manages the company's arts initiatives and cultural philanthropy. Prior to her time at Two Trees, Ms Kim held various positions at Gagosian Gallery, a leading international contemporary art gallery based in New York City and was the director of the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program, a program that commissions artists to create site-specific, permanent public art works at City sites. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art History from Barnard College and a Master of Industrial Design from Pratt Institute.



## CHOICHUN LEUNG

Choichun Leung is a multi-disciplinary artist from Wales, United Kingdom, currently living and working in Brooklyn. Ms Leung has a BA (Hons) Degree in 3D Design/Metalsmithing from Loughborough College of Art, UK. She has studied Buddhist symbolism at the Yungang Caves in Datong, China. And she has played percussion and Gu Qin with the Ray Man Chinese Orchestra in London as well as composing and performing electronic music for an audio/visual project in Köln, Germany.

Her current work involves video, drawings, paintings, and sound and will be the focus of an upcoming exhibition in St. Louis, Missouri this Spring/Summer 2015.



## NANCY NOWACEK

Nancy Nowacek is an artist whose work is rooted in the ecology of the everyday: the processes, codes, and habits of life. Her practice is focused on the uses of the body as it relates to work, architecture, and the practice of space. She has shown in New York, the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Canada, and Europe. Nowacek is currently a fellow at Eyebeam Center for Art and Technology on the Brooklyn Waterfront in Sunset Park. She holds MFAs in Communication Design and Social Practice and is certified in personal training by the National Academy of Sports Medicine. She lives on the Columbia waterfront in Brooklyn.



## GREGORY O'CONNELL

Gregory O'Connell is part of the O'Connell Organization, a family business concentrating on real estate investment, development, and property management primarily in Brooklyn, New York since 1967. In his career, he has worked to secure a diverse commercial tenant base that fosters coexistence rather than competition, a principle that he believes is the healthiest form of economic growth within communities. Gregory oversees management of commercial and residential units in Brooklyn.

O'Connell is also a judge for the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce's Annual Building Brooklyn Awards, an annual event that recognizes recently completed new and renovation construction projects that enrich Brooklyn's neighborhoods and economy. In 2013, he was named as one of Brooklyn's "Rising Stars," an honor bestowed by the *Brooklyn Spectator* each year recognizing 40 civic, religious, and community leaders under the age of 40. He is a member of the board of directors at multiple organizations including the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, and the Red Hook Initiative.



### TAMMY PITTMAN

Tammy Pittman has been co-creative director of Proteus Gowanus since 2007 and has curated and collaboratively developed numerous exhibitions, projects, and events over the course of seven year-long curatorial themes including Commerce, Water, Battle, Migration, Transport, Paradise, and Mend. Pittman has created projects and programs including the Fixers Collective, a social experiment in fixing and mending; the Cricket Crawl, a citizen-science project in collaboration with the Museum of Natural History; an experiential workshop for MoMA on the Proteus Gowanus Way of Thinking with Sasha Chavchavadze; What's It Worth To You, an interactive valuation game using objects and an evaluation system developed with Tatiana Istomina; Sewerama! an interdisciplinary daylong event about the NYC sewer system employing art, literature, and science. Before coming to Proteus Gowanus, she developed programs for non-profits, schools, and hospitals, and worked as a family nurse practitioner, a journalist, and an artist.



### BARRY ROSENTHAL

Barry Rosenthal is an urban archeologist, photographer, sculptor, and collector. He studied photography at the Dayton Art Institute in Dayton, Ohio, and at the Apeiron Workshops in Millerton, New York, with notable photographers Emmet Gowin and George Tice. Rosenthal's fine art images can be found in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and the Springfield Museum of Fine Art Springfield, Massachusetts. He is a resident of Lower Manhattan, along with his wife and daughter.

"Found in Nature," started in 2007 as an offshoot of his botanical work, has evolved from miniature collections of found objects into large-scale images that represent ocean-borne trash. By using a combination of sculpture and photography, and breaking down the found-object trash into themes of type, color, or whimsy, he is able to bring awareness to the global issue of ocean pollution.

In the fall of 2010, Rosenthal became a resident artist at chashama in the Brooklyn Army Terminal in Brooklyn, New York. In this space, he has been able to refine his vision and help it become socially and environmentally conscious.



### LAURA ROUMANOS

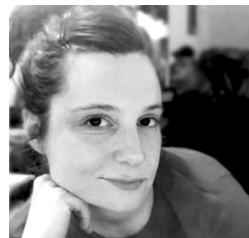
Originally hailing from Sydney, Australia—where she graduated from the prestigious National Institute of Dramatic Arts—Laura Roumanos worked as a producer and arts administrator before making the big move to New York City, to join the Manhattan Theatre Club. She then headed to St. Ann's Warehouse where she was the general manager for several years, producing and presenting large-scale international theatre, music, and art events.

Over the past several years, she has worked as the senior producer of Creative Time and also as a producer and operations director at the World Science Festival. She is currently the executive producer and co-founder of United Photo Industries and Photoville, while consulting, managing, and producing numerous theatrical shows and events throughout New York City.



### DEBORAH SCHWARTZ

Deborah Schwartz is president of the Brooklyn Historical Society, a nationally renowned urban history center, founded in 1863. From 2002 to 2006 she served as the Edward John Noble foundation deputy director for education at the Museum of Modern Art. Schwartz, a recognized leader in the field of museum education, teaches a graduate seminar on museum management for NYU's Museum Studies Program, and lectures at Columbia University Teacher's College and Bank Street College of Education. She has given workshops on museum leadership in China and the Ukraine. She has published articles on working with teens in museums (*Museum News*, 2005), public discourse and community building (*Journal of Museum Education*, 2010), and most recently, contributed to the Pew Center for Arts & Heritage publication, *Letting Go? Sharing Historical Authority in a User-Generated World* (Left Coast Press, 2011).



### KARLA STINGERSTEIN

Karla Stingerstein runs the Photosynthesister Projects, and she is an adjunct art professor and artist living in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is making research-inspired art across a range of media to advocate for ethical relationships between people and the natural world. Through speculative imaginings coupled with enrichment activities, her work serves to increase our understanding of and connection to nature. She is currently developing a work called Biotope. Ms Stingerstein is a collaborating artist on Mary Mattingly's WetLand and has participated in group exhibitions at the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Art (Pennsylvania), Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts (New York), Lafayette College (Pennsylvania), Pratt Institute (New York), the University of

Massachusetts (Massachusetts), ED. Varie (New York), and the Banana Factory (Pennsylvania). She has also participated in the GO! Brooklyn Museum Open Studio Project. Ms Stingerstein has received grants from the University of Massachusetts Arts Council and the University of Massachusetts Art and Art History Department.

She was formerly the director of development at the Hunterdon Museum of Art, Clinton, New Jersey, and the gallery director for the Student Union Art Gallery at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She holds an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, New York. She currently teaches at William Paterson University in Wayne, New Jersey, Kean University in Union, New Jersey, and Middlesex County College in Edison, New Jersey.

## BWRC STAFF

### JEREMIAH COX

Jeremiah Cox, the project coordinator for Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, is a student in Hunter College's masters of urban planning program. He is a 2011 graduate of Colorado College with a degree in environmental science.



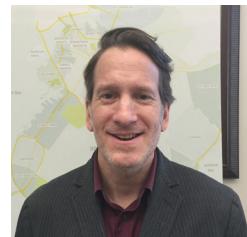
### ADAM DAVIDSON

Adam Davidson is the senior project coordinator at the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center and a PhD student in Geography at the CUNY Graduate Center. He has a background in city planning and studies urban development and transportation.



### RICHARD E. HANLEY

Richard E. Hanley, the director of the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, is a professor of English at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. He is the founding editor of the *Journal of Urban Technology (JUT)*, an international academic journal devoted to the study of the effects of technologies on cities and of the ways cities shape and employ technologies. Dr. Hanley, who holds a PhD in English and American literature from Binghamton University, is also the chairman of the board of the CUNY Institute for Urban Systems whose mission is to shape the next generation of urban infrastructure through studies of financing options, technology integration, and management innovations. The Institute's Building Performance Laboratory has been a major undertaking towards these ends.



### SEAN SCANLAN

Sean Scanlan is a senior fellow at the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center. He is assistant professor of English at New York City College of Technology, CUNY. Scanlan's teaching and research interests include: Global Homesickness, New York City history and literature, and the effect that technology has on reading and writing. He has published in the peer-reviewed journal *Style* on the subject of Edith Wharton and homesickness, and he is currently working on a manuscript titled: "Global Homesickness: The Feeling of Modernization and Movement, 1850-2012." He received his PhD from the University of Iowa (English) and is the founder and editor of the online, interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal *NANO: New American Notes Online* ([www.nanocrit.com](http://www.nanocrit.com)).

# BWRC'S ART RELATED INITIATIVE

As a follow up to this conference, the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center, in conjunction with the CUNY Mapping Service, will create an interactive digital map (IDM) of the Brooklyn waterfront that will display the places where art is made, displayed, and sold.

The interactive map will be easily accessible on the web and will supplement the location of art venues with sound, images, and video records. The design and construction of this interactive map will be an ongoing process, and if you would like your venue featured, contact us at [map@brooklynwaterfront.org](mailto:map@brooklynwaterfront.org)



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The staff of the Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center wishes to thank the following people who gave generously of their time and advice as we prepared for this conference: Joseph Anastasi, Sandra Cheng, Gabriel Florenz, Ella Marder, John Muggenborg, John Strohbeen, Ella Weiss, and Dustin Yellen.

Julia Jordan deserves special thanks for her constant support and illuminating advice.

Program and promotional materials designed and created by Matthew Joseph, Living Lab at City Tech.

# NOTES



**Brooklyn Waterfront Research Center**  
New York City College of Technology  
City University of New York