

For Immediate Release



Cartophilia Gowanus

On view Oct 19 through Nov. 19

Opening Reception: Saturday, Oct. 21 5-7

Part of Gowanus Open Studios

New York, October 15, 2017. What do the inner workings of the brain have to do with the underground ghost streams that lead to the Gowanus Canal? A fair amount – if you visualize them as maps.

“Cartophilia Gowanus” celebrates the love of maps and mapmaking. It features maps of the Gowanus dating back to 1849, maps made in Gowanus by local artists, and map-like circuit boards that have recently been pulled out of the muck of the Gowanus. The show features artist maps, historic and scientific maps, and everything in between.

To draw a map is to attempt to organize information in a specifically geographical visual form. Gowanus has been mapped in many ways because of its rich and overlapping history going back to when it was still a tidal creek. The show will feature a small cross section of these maps including sewage maps, underground ghost creek maps, zoning maps, the Canal’s historic mill ponds, and today’s microbial populations, scent maps, and concept drawings of what the area could look like in the future, depending on who you ask. An extensive version of these maps will also be featured as an interactive website.

Additionally, the show will present works by local artists including **Nina Katchadorian’s** “Manstatten Island,” a paper subway map tectonically reconstructed, joining Manhattan and Staten Island, complete with reconfigured subway lines; **Katarina Jerinic’s** “Sidewalk Drawing,” in which cracks in the sidewalk are collaged together to create a destinationless, meandering path through an imagined city landscape; an Ocean-Centric map drawing by **Peter Fend**, revealing its flow, draining via Earth’s major basins to the ocean. It also includes a piece by **Nene Humphrey** that explores the brain mechanisms mapping underlying human emotions, as well one of **David Scher’s** wry inky imagination scapes, rendered Rorschach-like into a meta-map, among other artists.

The show will also feature two limited edition prints custom-made for the show: **Archie’s Press** has created one of his signature minimalistic letterpress maps of the Gowanus neighborhood; and **Roxy Tea Parlour** designed a map that reveals the monsters and dragons lurking under the canal’s surface.

Historic and futuristic maps are sourced by **Eymund Diegel**, the **Gowanus Canal Conservancy**, and more to come. The show will feature an online interactive mapping site as well.

ABOUT THE GOWANUS SOUVENIR SHOP

The **Gowanus Souvenir Shop**, founded in 2015 by **Ute Zimmermann** and **Joel Beck**, is dedicated to unraveling and glorifying the complex, even Byzantine story of the infamous

Gowanus Canal, presenting souvenirs that explore all its many facets, pondering the dark fascinations and mysterious allures of this troubled waterway.

The Gowanus Canal has a truly rich and significant history, being central to and emblematic of every stage of the American Experiment. Tracing history via the canal's lore, we find it as a once pristine nature inhabited Native Americans, then a famous oyster bay surrounded by farmland, its tides creating early colonial mill enterprises. It is the site of a famous pivotal battle in the American Revolution. It mirrors the industrial revolution, growth of commerce, and seafaring history, and was once a favored mafia dumping ground. Most recently populated by artists, and other quirky to shady figures, this sewer has now entered its final baroque period: a most improbable destination hotspot, EPA Superfund, and real estate speculation boomtown.

The **Gowanus Souvenir Shop**, which started as an ironic concept--a souvenir shop for a tremendously polluted waste site--has now become a real (some have said post-ironic) shop and pretentiously self-proclaimed "Official Visitor Center" for the area. The shop sells a mix of classic souvenirs, (authentic and inauthentic) curios and historical objects, and work by local artists and makers along with literature related to the canal, situated in a museum-like space that invites the visitor to linger and explore. The objects for sale transcendently morph the purely touristical into the realm of art, but at a tourist price and with the light(hearted)ness of a simple souvenir. The result is part small town tourist stand, curio shop, and antiques store rolled into one.

On sale are T-shirts, magnets, trucker hats, posters, and postcards, all with a Gowanus twist. Best sellers are the Gowanus Swim Team t-shirts, the "Gowanus is Superfun" the Gowanus Resort Beach Towels, the Gowanus Water Bottles, and the faux horror movie poster "It came from the Gowanus Canal". The "Greetings from Gowanus" postcards feature palm trees and magnificent sunsets, re-imagining our canal as the paradise that locals have always known it as.

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Hours: Thursday-Sunday 10-7 and by appointment.