

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 2019

For Information contact:

JoAnne McFarland: 917 880 1886 joannemcfarland55@gmail.com

Sasha Chavchavadze: 917 692 2669 sashachav@gmail.com

SEDIMENT – A Five-Venue Exhibition

Five exhibition spaces will offer concurrent exhibitions exploring the theme SEDIMENT from March through July 2019. The exhibitions coincide with and respond to the dredging of century-old sediment from the bottom of the Gowanus Canal, one of the most toxic waterways in the United States.

The SEDIMENT project highlights community-based exhibition spaces that are unique to NYC neighborhoods where the arts have thrived under the radar. SEDIMENT begins at **PS 122 Gallery** with its own significant alternative arts history, then continues in Gowanus, Brooklyn at four Brooklyn spaces within walking distance of the Gowanus Canal, each offering a unique interpretation of SEDIMENT: *Said I Meant* at **Artpoetica**, *As Above, So Below* at the **Gowanus Dredgers Boathouse**, *Alluvium* at **South Slope Local**, and *Sludge* at the **Gowanus Souvenir Shop**.

SEDIMENT grew out of conversations between Sasha Chavchavadze and JoAnne McFarland who've worked as artists out of the same arts building—543 Union Street in Gowanus for thirty years. They conceived SEDIMENT, inspired by the phrase Black Lives Matter, to address the signals of mattering, particularly important in times of extreme transition, like now, when values are most flexible and wisdom most needed.



As the Gowanus neighborhood is rezoned and the Canal is dredged of toxic material, the issues of who and what matters rise to the top. SEDIMENT will explore, through art, and collaboration between organizations invested in open, fertile creative exchanges, how belonging happens, how self esteem and community can be nourished and sustained.



Image courtesy Robert Pennington, *Tanque de Agua* (Water Tank) 2016

SEDIMENT exhibitions will engage non-traditional art audiences—passers by, café-goers, families canoeing and celebrating Mother’s Day—with a theme that directly impacts their lives.

Visitors will be provided with a map for a self-guided walking tour of the exhibitions, including stops at local restaurants, on Saturday, May 11th and Sunday, May 12th (Mother’s Day), 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. SEDIMENT leverages the resources and space of local non-profits Gowanus Dredgers Canoe Club and Gowanus Canal Conservancy.

Some exhibitions will include Gowanus artifacts from the Hall of Gowanus archive, now under the stewardship of the Gowanus Canal Conservancy. SEDIMENT workshops/ events will be offered at selected exhibition venues.

The five exhibitions include:

PS 122 Gallery – *Sediment*

Where: P.S. 122, 150 First Avenue, Ground Floor, NYC 10009

Dates: March 22nd – April 26th, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, March 22nd, 6 – 8 p.m.
Curator: JoAnne McFarland

SEDIMENT, curated by JoAnne McFarland, is the second exhibition in PS 122 Gallery's renovated East Village gallery space. The exhibition will focus on the often-contradictory nature of intention versus outcome as decisions are made that affect our environment and communities.

Artpoetica – *Said I Meant*

Where: 543 Union Street, Studio 2B, Brooklyn, NY 11215

Dates: May 11th – June 9th

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 11th, 1 – 5 p.m.

Hours: May 11th and 12th, 1 – 5 p.m., then by appointment

Curator: JoAnne McFarland

Artpoetica founder and creative director JoAnne McFarland has chosen works that emphasize mark-making and auditory symbols as reflections of the compulsion to memorialize our time here on Earth.

Gowanus Dredgers Boathouse – *As Above, So Below*

Where: 165 Second Street

Dates: May 11th – June 15th

Opening Reception – Saturday, May 11th, 1 – 5 p.m.

Hours: Saturdays, 1 – 5 p.m. or by appointment. Open Mothers Day, May 12th, 1– 5 p.m.

Curator: Sasha Chavchavadze

Sediment sinks downward, settling at the lowest point, a human and ecological repository of what rises above. In *As Above, So Below* curated by Proteus Gowanus founder Sasha Chavchavadze, thirteen artists will explore the residue of urban change, from its lowest point at the bottom of the Gowanus Canal, to the highest site lines of impending high rises.

Gowanus Souvenir Shop – *Sludge and Other Sedimental Souvenirs*

Where: 567 Union Street

Dates: Throughout May. Hours: Tuesday – Sunday 10-6 p.m.

Curator: Ute Zimmermann

The Gowanus Souvenir Shop offers souvenirs that riff on the many layers of the canal's mystifying and troubling yet often humorous and darkly fascinating history. The shop will

produce three sludge-inspired limited edition souvenirs for this exhibition, and will offer a selection of Gowanus books and artifacts.

South Slope Local – *Alluvium*

Where: 355 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY

Dates: May 11th – July 7th

Hours: Monday – Sunday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Exhibition Coordinator: Susan Newmark Fleminger

At the far reaches of the Gowanus alluvial plain, still in the area of combined sewage run off, South Slope Local presents ALLUVIUM an exhibition of mixed-media paintings on vintage fabric that probe the toxic and fertile nature of the U.S. Constitution.

Combined Sediment Participants:

Monique Allain, Barry Beach, Diane Bertolo, Sasha Chavchavadze, Gabrielle Civil, Jeri Coppola, Donna Maria de Creeft, Ellen Driscoll, Paul Eprile, Phyllis Ewen, Jacqueline Ferrante, Susan Newmark Fleminger, Elisabeth Frost and Dianne Kornberg, Rich Garr, Abby Goldstein, Robert Gould, Rachel Eliza Griffiths, Shanti Grumbine, Leslie Kerby, Katherine Leiner, Mikael Levin, Nancy Manter, Jennifer Marshall, JoAnne McFarland, Eva Melas, Spencer Merolla, Andrew Mockler, Robert Pennington, Tammy Pittman, Lourdes Sanchez, Claudia Sbrissa, Jane Swavely, Kit Warren, Ute Zimmermann, plus artifacts from the Hall of Gowanus.

artpoetica

Gowanus Canal

CONSERVANCY



**SOUTH SLOPE
LOCAL**