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Dirge, Artists Addressing Displacement

Dirge brings together artists inspired by a unifying topic— displacement. The particular jumping-off point is the story of Dead Horse Bay, or Barren Island. By the Rockaways, it was an island inhabited by mainly immigrant communities until 1936, when it was converted into one of the city's largest landfills, as well as the specific spot where the horses that were no longer being utilized as the main source of transport would go. Basically, the island went from home to many, to a mountain of decomposing equine corpses. New York has dealt with displacement in many forms throughout history, causing forced relocation of communities— and therefore a domino effect of both physical and emotional issues on a much larger scale. These artists used their craft and creativity to speak about this controversial topic through a variety of mediums, dedicating their work to a conversation about conflation and the mental anguish that is losing a home.

