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## **Brooklyn Artists Featured in Site-Specific Exhibition at the Naval Cemetery Landscape's Season Closer Event, October 19 and 20**

Brooklyn Greenway Initiative Announces Artworks and Performances that Celebrate Nature and History as part of Open House New York Weekend

**Brooklyn, N.Y. (October 9, 2019)** – Brooklyn Greenway Initiative (BGI) announces the two artists selected from its open call for art works that will provide visitors during Open House New York (OHNY) weekend with a unique experience of the natural and cultural history of the Naval Cemetery Landscape, the former burial ground of the Naval Hospital Annex at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

Following an open submission process that began in July and a month-long voting period, BGI selected two projects for the special exhibition: *Birdhouse*, a movement piece choreographed by Caylee Shimizu, and *ROW*, an audio installation by Lisa Hein & Robert Seng. The two submissions were selected for their site-specific focus, drawing inspiration from the ecology and history of the Naval Cemetery Landscape. According to Nina Bowers, who coordinates programs for BGI, "These two works complement one another and enhance the experience of the site in powerful and different ways."

The Naval Cemetery Landscape, developed by BGI and opened to the public in 2016, is an award-winning 1.7-acre contemplative memorial landscape and pollinator habitat. The site was designed to provide local residents and other visitors with a respite from urban life while adding vital open space and native plant habitat to a park-starved area of Brooklyn. "The Cemetery Landscape is a secret gem in the City," said Bowers, "but we hope that through the art exhibitions and tours offered for Open House New York weekend that the secret will be out."

The Naval Cemetery Landscape Season Closer will feature *ROW* all weekend, October 19-20 from 10am to 6pm. The performance *Birdhouse* is scheduled for Saturday October 19th at 12, 2 and 4pm. On Sunday, bagpiper David Watson will perform occasional new works based on nautical themes between 1 and 3pm. In addition, BGI is offering tours led by the project's landscape architect Jeffrey Longhenry and native meadow specialist Pennington Marchael on Sunday, October 20 at 11am, 3pm, and 5pm. The full schedule of activities is listed online at <http://www.brooklyngreenway.org/>

The Naval Cemetery Landscape Season Closer Event is made possible with the support of the Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation, Nature Sacred, and Con Edison.

## **Artist Bios and Statements**

### Caylee Shimizu – *Birdhouse*

Caylee Shimizu is a Brooklyn based dance artist and dance/movement therapist. Her work aims to embody and reflect the intricacies of the human experience. Connections between performers, viewers, music, and the environment are explored by asking how we can build empathetic relationships and be present with each other.

As we intertwine with visitors, we transport them away from the chaos of the urban surroundings into a new dimension where time and space are controlled by the dancers. The movement quality will be organic while architecturally mirroring the site, to complement its beauty and work harmoniously with the surrounding landscape. *Birdhouse* will be a celebration of life, from honoring the lives of those who came before us to cherishing the lives that we have.

<http://www.cayleeshimizu.com/>

There will be five dancers and the approximate run time will be 15 - 20 minutes.

### Lisa Hein and Robert Seng – *ROW*

*ROW* is an audio installation consisting of the sound of a wooden boat being rowed through the water. The sounds fade in at alternating locations beneath the boardwalk, as if unseen boats were passing by. *ROW* imagines a third stream beneath adjacent rivers of traffic and tide. The Styx divides the living from the dead, and many we know, as well as the unknowns still buried here, are crossing over. Others who traverse include Revolutionary captives bound for British prison ships, international migrants, and Bob's compatriots in the US Navy.

Lisa Hein and Robert Seng are a Brooklyn artist team focused on site rather than medium. Recent projects have used various means, including moving light, boiling fats, stealth textiles and Jello bricks, to explore the hidden lives of places and occasions. <https://heinseng.com/>

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### **About Brooklyn Greenway Initiative**

BGI is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to the development, establishment and long-term stewardship of the Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway, a 26-mile landscaped and protected route for pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities that, when complete, will connect Brooklyn's storied and iconic waterfront, parks and open space, commercial and cultural corridors, and new tech and innovation hubs for 2.65 million Brooklyn residents, over 1.1 million employees in Brooklyn, and 15 million annual visitors from across the City and around the world. For more information about BGI visit: <https://www.brooklyngreenway.org>