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The Newtown Creek Armada Closing Weekend

A public art installation with model boats outfitted with underwater cameras is afloat on the Newtown Creek this weekend, and at Dumbo Arts Festival.

September 27, 2012 – Today The Newtown Creek Armada, in partnership with the North Brooklyn Public Art Coalition (nbART), announced the closing weekend activities of an interactive public art installation that has already brought over 500 participants to a rarely traveled area in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. The Armada is a model boat pond created on the Newtown Creek, one of America's most polluted waterways. Hundreds of participants, including artists, families, environmentalists and students, have become part of The Armada as both pilots and filmmakers: visitors are invited to pilot the fleet of artist-made, miniature, remote-controlled boats along the creek's surface, while at the same time documenting the hidden world of its waters, as each boat is equipped with underwater HD video cameras, allowing visitors to record a unique voyage.

The Armada will be free and open to the public this weekend on Saturday and Sunday at the Newtown Creek Nature Walk in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. On Saturday, artist George Trakas - the creator of the Nature Walk - will lead a public walking tour of the park and the installation. The Armada will also travel to the Dumbo Arts Festival on Friday and Saturday night, to present "The Newtown Creek Armada: Portholes" - a video installation which gives visitors a chance to virtually immerse themselves in the toxic waters of this Superfund site, with three video pieces that travel past oil slicks, sewage overflows, and returning nature.

The Newtown Creek Armada is a collaboration between three Brooklyn artists – Laura Chipley, Nathan Kensinger, and Sarah Nelson Wright – whose individual work creatively investigates industry, ecology, and change in urban spaces. The project is presented in partnership with North Brooklyn Public Art Coalition (nbART) and with support from the North Brooklyn Boat Club.

On Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30 from 1:00pm to 4:00pm the Newtown Creek Armada will be open to the public at the Newtown Creek Nature Walk in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

On Saturday September 29 at 1:00pm, artist George Trakas will lead a walking tour of the Nature Walk and The Armada, starting at Paidge and Provost streets in Greenpoint, Brooklyn.

On Friday September 28 and Saturday September 29 at 6pm, "The Newtown Creek Armada: Portholes" will be installed in Dumbo, Brooklyn at Main Street Park as part of the Dumbo Arts Festival.

All events are free and open to the public.

www.newtowncreekarmada.org

About the Artists

Laura Chipley uses video, sculpture and public interventions to scratch away at the surface of the ordinary and investigate the fantastical, spiritual and subversive qualities of everyday objects, places and human interactions. She is the creator of Deep Black Sea, an experimental documentary series that chronicles the aftermath of oil spills around the world. Her installations, sculptures and videos have been exhibited in festivals and galleries across the country. For more information, visit www.laurachipley.com

Nathan Kensinger is a filmmaker, photographer and curator. His work explores hidden urban landscapes, off-limits structures, and other liminal spaces. Kensinger's photographs have been exhibited at the Brooklyn Museum, the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, and in recent solo shows at the Brooklyn Library and UnionDocs. His films have screened widely at film festivals, including Slamdance, Rooftop Films, SF IndieFest, and the Boston Underground. For more information, visit www.nathankensinger.com

Sarah Nelson Wright is an interdisciplinary media artist whose work poetically investigates the changing urban landscape and seeks opportunities for public dialog and participation. In 2009, she created Brooklyn Makes, a site-specific video installation on manufacturing in North Brooklyn. She has exhibited in diverse New York venues, including CONFLUX, The Center, PowerHouse ArtSpace and Bring To Light, as well as in Mostra de Artes in San Paulo, Brazil, and ACVic in Vic, Spain. Her work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts. For more information, visit www.sarahnelsonwright.com