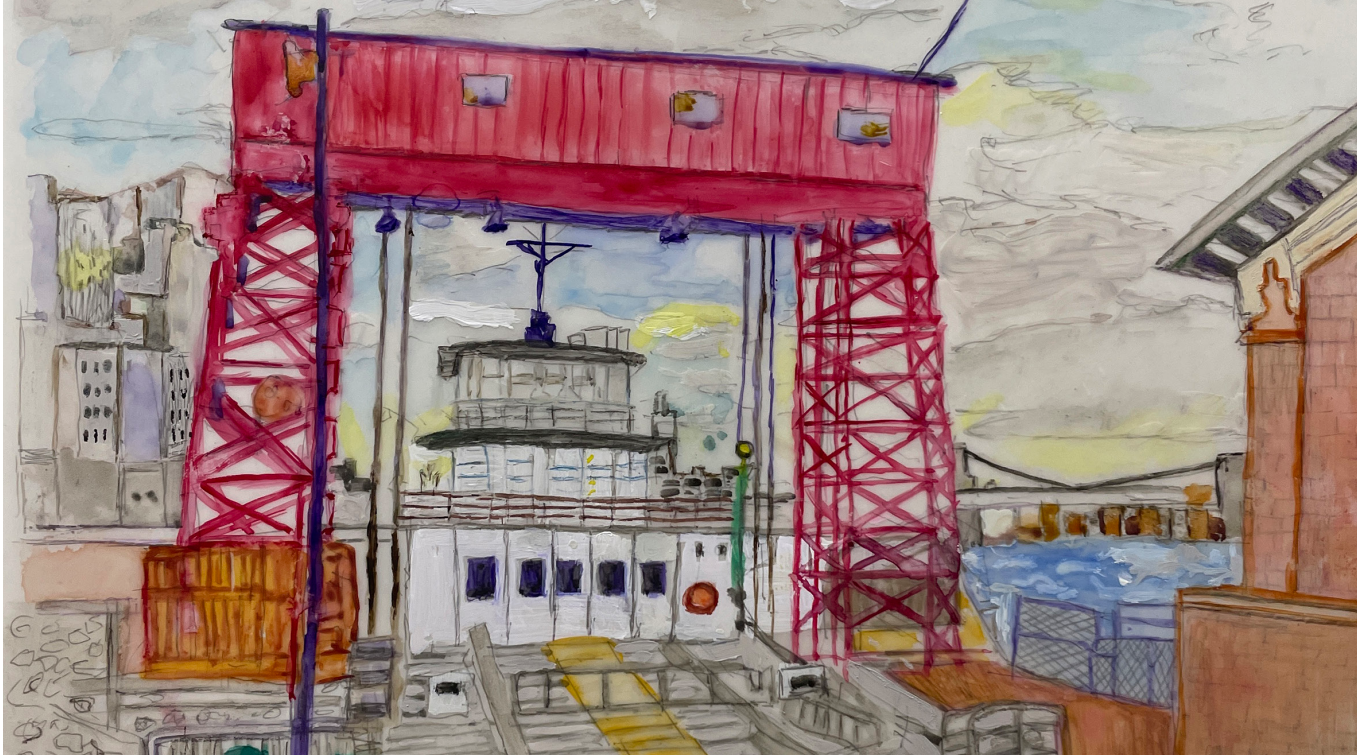




Ferried Away

Reflections on
Governors Island

EDITORS LESLIE KERBY & ELIZABETH LOGAN HARRIS

This is a draft cover layout. Design will be finalized in production.

FERRIED AWAY: REFLECTIONS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

Editors Leslie Kerby and Elizabeth Logan Harris

The anthology *Ferried Away: Reflections on Governors Island*, co-edited by Elizabeth Logan Harris and Leslie Kerby, is forthcoming from Fordham University Press | Empire State Editions (Spring 2027).

Ferried Away takes a close look at this 172-acre oasis, a ten-minute ferry ride from Lower Manhattan. Serving as a military base for centuries, the island has been an incubator for arts and environmental initiatives for more than two decades. Over forty contributors with texts ranging from poetry, micro memoir, and flash fiction to interviews and longer form essays tell the island's layered story. Leslie Kerby's colorful paintings of the island illustrate the book.

In his thoughtful introduction, Russell Shorto places the island in the larger context of New York City history. Artists Mary Mattingly and Eileen Myles speak to the importance of the island as public space. Denise Bright Dove Ashton-Dunkley, land activist and member of the Nanticoke Lenne-Lenape Nation, looks at the fraudulent 17th century "sale" of Mannahatta to the Dutch. Ross Perlin (*Language City*) reminds us that throughout its history, the island has been a provisional home to a host of marginalized communities. Historian Nicole Maskiell (*Bound by Bondage: Slavery and the Creation of a Northern Gentry*) considers the island's historical place in the Black imagination. Volcanologist Karen Holmberg from the NYU Gallatin WetLab blends startling geological facts about the island with personal anecdotes. Ecologist Carl Safina (*Alfie and Me: What Owls Know*) and Jessica Wilson, Executive Director of the New York City Bird Alliance, discuss current conservation issues affecting the island's avian population. The volume also includes a chorus of community voices—a longtime ferry deckhand, an urban farmer, a security guard, a beekeeper, a member of the Billion Oyster project, former Coast Guard residents, and Harbor School students.

Though primarily focused on the island's past and present, *Ferried Away* takes a look at its future. In an interview with Kevin Reed, Director of The New York Climate Exchange, readers learn more about the climate research hub slated for completion in 2029 that will bring lasting change to the island community. An essay by journalist Nicole Gelinas (*Movement: New York's Long War to Take Back its Streets from the Car*) considers what these changes could mean in the long run.

Co-editors Harris and Kerby are in the process of scheduling public programming in conjunction with the book's publication in spring 2027. Given the anthology's numerous contributors from varied disciplines, there are many ways to shape panel discussions, readings, and other programs. Suggested topics include public art, urban policy and planning, sustainability, New York/American History, and placemaking.

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About the Artist/Co-Editors

Leslie Kerby works across media—primarily drawing, collage, printmaking, and video—to create both representational and abstract works in series. These thematically linked works focus on issues relating to the variable connections between the individual and the broader networks and communities within which we live and interact. She is specifically interested in systemic patterns as they manifest visually in the built and natural environment.

Co-Director of Project ARTspace (NYC) since 2022, Kerby has been a Visiting Artist at the American Academy in Rome and a fellow at the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts in Virginia and Auvillar, France. She has received grants in support of her work from the Robert Joseph Foundation and the New York State Council on the Arts (NYSCA). Through Norte Maar Gallery for Collaborative Projects in the Arts in New York, she published the limited edition, *A Modicum of Mankind*, a collaboration with New York writing John Talbird. Also in limited edition, *Closing Ceremony*, a collaboration with writer Paul D'Agostino PhD, to accompany a series of on-going public art installations in France, Italy and New York City (to date), and *Peanuts on the Tracks*, a compendium of poetic stories and oil paintings reflecting upon her experiences as a social worker in rural Virginia in the 70s. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Bradbury Museum (Jonesboro, AK) and Columbia University School of Social Work (NYC).

Elizabeth Logan Harris's experience includes writing, print editing, and film production. Her interest in the New York City waterfront communities began with co-producing and writing the television documentary "The Bungalows of Rockaway" (WNET, 2010, Viewer Favorite; director Jennifer Callahan). Harris witnessed the the devastating effects of global warming on the polar ice caps while a 2025 fellow with the Arctic Circle Residency Program. Winner of the *Mississippi Review*'s 2018 Nonfiction Award and the AWP Intro Journals Award for Fiction, Harris has published work in numerous national literary magazines and periodicals, including *Colorado Review*, *Conjunctions*, *Fourth Genre*, *Guernica*, *Longreads*, *New England Review* and *Pine Mountain Sand and Gravel* among others. In collaboration with the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, she researches and writes about African American historic sites in that region.