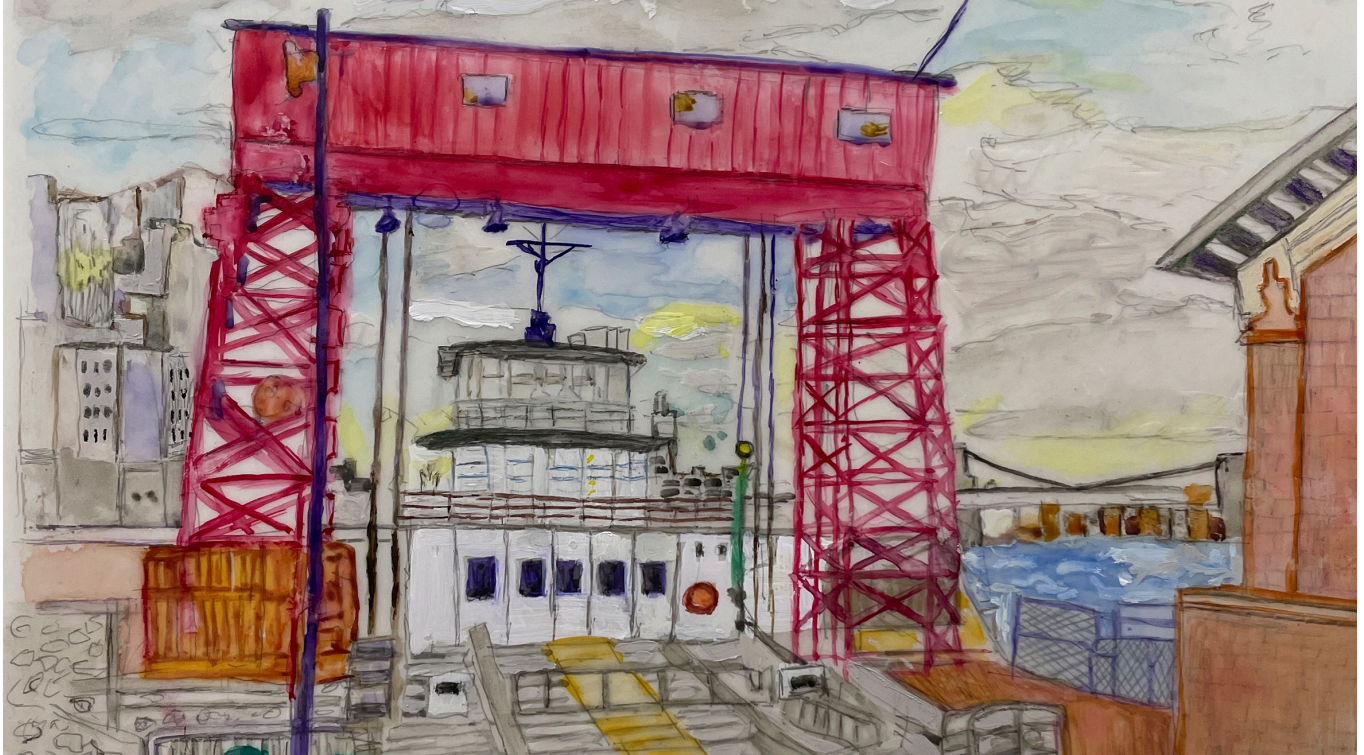


LESLIE KERBY & ELIZABETH LOGAN HARRIS



Ferried Away

Reflections on
Governors Island

THE ISLANDERS THE INTERPRETERS THE ICONOCLASTS

Note: Draft cover design: book is under consideration with Empire State Editions/Fordham University Press

FERRIED AWAY: REFLECTIONS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND

Leslie Kerby and Elizabeth Logan Harris

the islanders • the interpreters • the iconoclasts

Project Overview

FERRIED AWAY: REFLECTIONS ON GOVERNORS ISLAND, a forthcoming publication from Fordham University Press (2026/27), celebrates the unique textures of the contemporary island and pays homage to its legendary past—from the unceded Lenape nut-gathering ground to a Dutch trading post to the birthplace of New York State to a present-day incubator of arts and environmental initiatives.

FERRIED AWAY will feature a variety of short texts, ranging from poetry, flash fiction, and memoir to a chorus of community voices that include commentaries by a longtime ferry deckhand, a security guard, an urban farmer, and a beekeeper. Harbor School students recount daily ferry crossings and unique island-based studies. The comical “chicken diaries” relate the inside scoop on the island’s henhouse. Throughout the book, Kerby’s colorful paintings are combined with creative texts that celebrate beloved island sites, such as the former synagogue, the playgrounds, the ubiquitous red chairs, and the ferry. A timeline marking notable dates in the island’s storied past outlines the multi-faceted history of this singular place.

The co-editors are commissioning a few longer essays from well-known writers—an historian, a humorist, an urbanist, an environmentalist, for instance—who will offer broader perspectives on the island and appeal to a larger national readership. Historian Russell Shorto (*The Island at the Center of the World* and *Taking Manhattan*) will write an introduction to the book. “Navigational” sections with charts, lively tables, and other almanac-like items will convey fun facts about the island’s celebrated open spaces and sustainability initiatives, such as Earth Matter, Harbor High School, and artist/activist Mary Mattingly’s Swale project.

FERRIED AWAY will also offer a glimpse of the island’s future. With the advent of The Climate Exchange, a world-class research scheduled for completion in 2029, and other development to follow, Governors Island will never be the same. Hundreds of private cars, retail spaces, offices, and hotels will bring a decidedly different kind of tourism and a permanent change to the island landscape. The publication date will determine the amount of information and commentary regarding this development. The focus of the book, however, is not to outline this coming change. Rather, the co-editors feel an urgency to celebrate the island’s present and recent past before these lasting changes take place.

FERRIED AWAY will capture the spirited ambience of the island, a unique oasis that hosts millions of visitors each year—a short ferry ride from the Manhattan bustle and a world apart.

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.

Kerby has exhibited widely in New York galleries and art venues, including Paula Cooper Gallery, Frosch & Co Gallery, SarahCrown Gallery, and BRIC Arts NYC. 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. 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 writer 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). 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*, *Guernica*, *Longreads*, *New England Review* and *Fourth Genre*. Her play "Skirmishes" was produced by the Ensemble Theater of Cincinnati. As a volunteer in collaboration with the Chesterfield Historical Society of Virginia, she researches and writes about African American historic sites in that region. She holds degrees from Brown University (BA), University of Virginia (MA), and Brooklyn College/CUNY (MFA Fiction).

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