

Does the River Flow Both Ways?

Mahicantuck, the original Lenape name of the Hudson River, translates as “the river that flows two ways,” a reference to the river’s unusually deep tidal estuary: at 153 miles, an oceanic pulse that can be felt all the way to Troy, New York. In this work, the uncanny doubleness of that name produces an impossible world where opposites meet and mingle promiscuously: past and present, surface and depth, luxury and poverty, pleasure and boredom. The life that teems in this double world of water and air presents both an alternative to as well as a mirror-image of the turbulent world that flows out of extractive capitalism. Here techno-optimistic fantasies of the future are shadowed by painful realities of a deeply flawed present and many cruel pasts. Luxury yachts and mammoth commercial vessels pass by tattered rafts bearing people hawking e-waste, underwater mini-gyms for the wealthy float beneath tankers carrying water to states hit by drought, advertisements proclaim the absurd obsessions of a distracted public: cryptocurrency, trips to Mars, plastic surgery; floating memorials remind us of atrocities past and present: slavery, genocide, species extinction, 9/11.

By turning the poetic Lenape original into a question, this work invites reflection on reciprocity and responsiveness, casting a skeptical eye on capitalist claims that “a rising tide lifts all boats.” At the same time, by invoking the idea of mutuality and free exchange, the work also affirms the boundless potential of planetary forces and living species to generate new worlds of multi-species thriving. Along the flows of the waterway, social and biological assemblages form and dissolve; fish flock; shad run, oysters reef; whales foray and humans invent and sample endless watery pleasures.

Does the River Flow Both Ways? generates its dynamic composition primarily in response to algorithmic probability, and responds to the real-time weather and tide data of Hudson River estuary. When it’s raining in New York City, it’s raining in here.



Marina Zurkow and James Schmitz
Does The River Flow Both Ways?, 2022
Custom software (color, silent)
Edition of 5, 1 AP


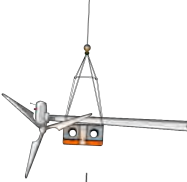












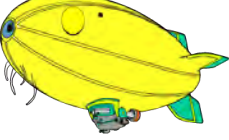

Video Documentation: <https://vimeo.com/710965272>

Does The River Flow Both Ways? explores an alternate, present-day Hudson River estuary in which happy social and biological ecosystems live in harmony; a place where humans can interact with the water in intimate ways and experience what is happening below its surface. The title questions whether such a techno-optimistic present is viable. In good faith, the animated, software-driven work imagines a world in which renewables, public transport, water shipment, sensual freedom, and multi-species ecologies can indeed coexist, even thrive, during a turbulent climactic period. The animated elements emerge primarily in response to algorithmic probability as well as real-time weather and tide data.

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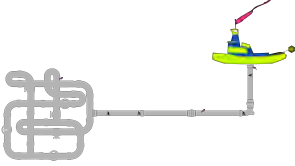




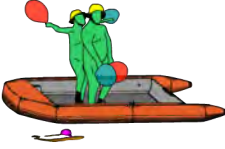



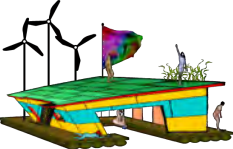
M ZURKOW / J SCHMITZ 2022

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
|  | CRANE CARRYING CLEAN WATER |  | CRANE CARRYING A WIND TURBINE |
|  | CRANE CARRYING CLEAN WATER |  | CRANE CARRYING A GREENHOUSE |
|  | DELIVERY DRONE |  | EAGLE |
|  | DRONE W/ CAMERA |  | EAGLE FISHING |
|  | DRONE W/ CAMERA |  | SNOW GOOSE |
|  | HOT AIR BALLOON |  | GOOSE AIRPLANE |
|  | HOT AIR BALLOON |  | HAWK |
|  | SURVEILLANCE BLIMP |  | MONARCH BUTTERFLY |

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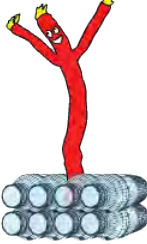




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| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------------------|
|  | <p>PIGEONS</p> |  | <p>CANOE</p> |
|  | <p>SEAGULL</p> |  | <p>RESCUE BOAT</p> |
|  | <p>STORK DELIVERING BABY</p> |  | <p>RAFT WITH E-WASTE</p> |
|  | <p>TUG WITH UNDERWATER RECREATIONAL TUBES</p> |  | <p>RAFT WITH E-WASTE</p> |
|  | <p>PAPER AIRPLANE</p> |  | <p>ZODIAC BOAT</p> |
|  | <p>BARGE TRANSPORTING FRESH WATER TO THE WEST</p> |  | <p>ZODIAC BOAT</p> |
|  | <p>FOOD FOREST BARGE</p> |  | <p>PARTY RAFT</p> |
|  | <p>FOREST BARGE (AFTER SMITHSON)</p> |  | <p>PARTY RAFT</p> |

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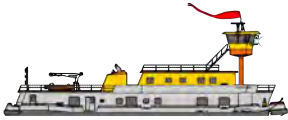















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|---|--------------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
|  | MASTODON AND HUNTERS MEMORIAL |  | BOTTLE OF RUM |
|  | MASTODON MEMORIAL |  | SHIP IN A BOTTLE |
|  | PLASTIC BOTTLE RAFT |  | MAMMOTH |
|  | PLASTICS MEMORIAL |  | BEAVER MEMORIAL |
|  | SLAVE SHIP MEMORIAL |  | ELK MEMORIAL |
|  | WALRUS/ICE AGE MEMORIAL |  | AIR DANCER MEMORIAL |
|  | WTC MEMORIAL |  | ORIGAMI SWAN |
|  | LANDBACK PROTEST FLAG |  | ORIGAMI BOAT |

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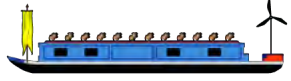
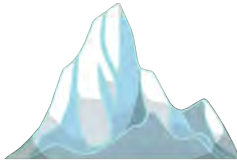







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| | | | |
|---|---|--|------------------------------|
|  | FERRY |  | SAILBOAT |
|  | HALF MOON (HENRY HUDSON'S SHIP) |  | SAILBOAT |
|  | KAYAK |  | SAILBOAT |
|  | LOG BOAT |  | TRASH GOBBLER |
|  | LOG HOUSE OF WORSHIP WITH SWIMMERS |  | BIKE-POWERED BOAT |
|  | PARTY BOAT |  | BUOY |
|  | ROWBOAT |  | HOUSEBOAT |
|  | SWAN BOAT |  | HOUSEBOAT |

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| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
|  | BARGE |  | ICEBERG |
|  | BARGE |  | ICEBERG |
|  | BARGE |  | ICEBERG |
|  | CORACLE |  | FLOATING LABORATORY WITH POLAR BEAR |
|  | DRAGON BOAT |  | FLOATING LABORATORY |
|  | FLOATING FUTURISTIC APARTMENT COMPLEX |  | ROCK ISLAND |
| | |  | ROCK ISLAND |

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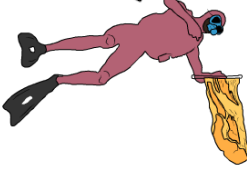





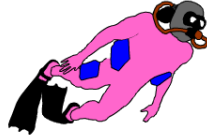


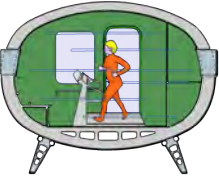

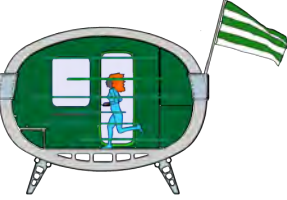
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| | | | |
|---|---|--|----------------|
|  | SWIMMER |  | HERRING |
|  | BLACKFISH |  | HORSESHOE CRAB |
|  | FLUKE |  | NAKED GOBY |
|  | BLENNY |  | PIKE |
|  | BLUE CRAB |  | PIPEFISH |
|  | AMERICAN EEL |  | SEAHORSE |
|  | GLASS EEL (JUVENILE AMERICAN EEL) |  | SILVERSIDE |
|  | FLUKE |  | STRIPED BASS |

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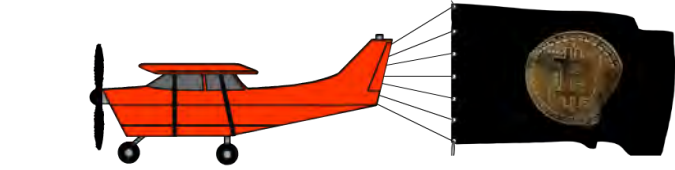
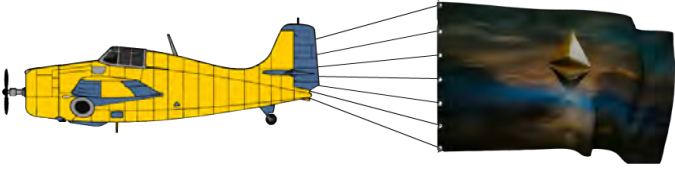

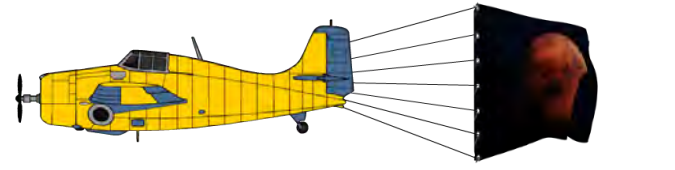
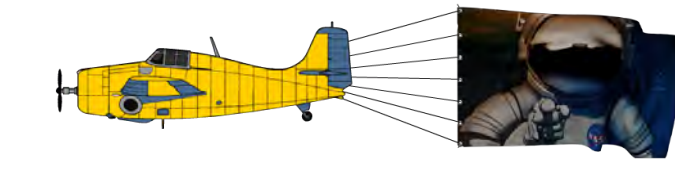
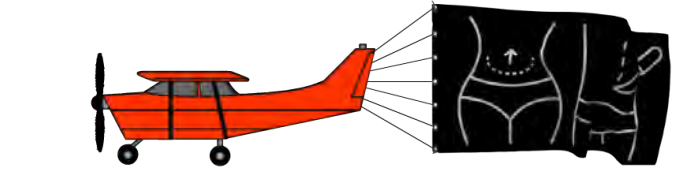
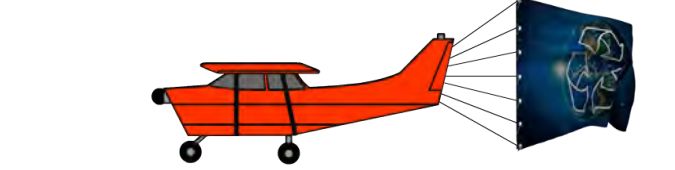
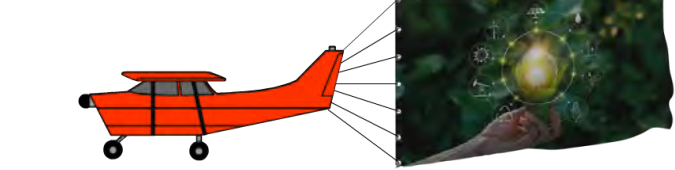
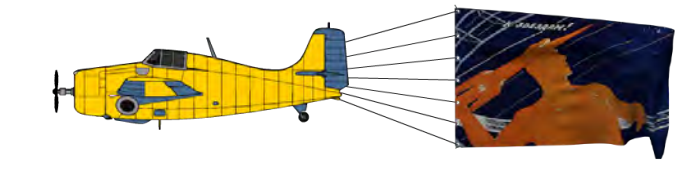
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| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|------------------|
|  | STURGEON |  | SCUBA DIVER |
|  | TOMCOD |  | SCUBA DIVER |
|  | TOUTOG |  | SCUBA DIVER |
|  | SEAL |  | SCUBA DIVER |
|  | HUMPBACK WHALE |  | SCUBA DIVER |
|  | POD 1 WITH SKATER |  | HIGH TIDE MARKER |
|  | POD 2 WITH JOGGER |  | LOW TIDE MARKER |
|  | POD 3 WITH JOGGER | | |

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| | |
|---|--|
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR BITCOIN |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR ETHERIUM |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR META |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR MARS |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR SPACE TRAVEL |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR PLASTIC SURGERY |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR RECYCLING |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR ENERGY |
|  | PLANE FLYING ADVERTISEMENT FOR SPACE TRAVEL |

