



WAVE HILL HOUSE

July 26–December 11, 2022

MAYA CIARROCCHI

Muscota, Mosholu, Tibbetts Brook

MAYA CIARROCCHI

Born 1967, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Lives in Bronx, NY

South Broadway, 2020
Cyanotype on paper, 24 x 18 inches
Courtesy of the artist

Muscota, Mosholu, Tibbetts Brook features Maya Ciarrocchi's recent cyanotype prints on silk and works on paper that combine historical narratives with mapping to evoke the embodied experience of place, uncover buried pasts and investigate ecological issues. Comprising renderings from archival maps and new drawings with fantastical structures of an imagined future, this current project considers the impact of urbanization on New York City water systems and the shorelines now inaccessible to city residents.

During Ciarrocchi's 2020 Winter Workspace residency at Wave Hill, she developed *Mosholu*, a series of drawings and cyanotypes documenting the diversion of Tibbetts Brook into the city's sewage system over a century ago. Many of those prints are on view in the exhibition in Wave Hill House. Formerly a resource for food and navigation, Tibbetts Brook originated in Yonkers and flowed into the Bronx where it met Shorakapok or Shorackhappok, translated from Lenape as "the sitting down place" or "place between the ridges."

Today, Tibbetts Brook is evident when it floods the Broadway corridor during heavy rains. This, along with combined sewer overflow, a 19th-century system of managing stormwater, contributes to the ongoing pollution of New York City's naturally occurring rivers and streams. The area around Tibbetts Brook, thought to be called *Muscota*, "place in the reeds," by the Munsee-speaking Lenape was mislabeled as *Mosholu* by 18th-century cartographers. This demonstrates European settlers' disregard for indigenous knowledge and culture, a colonialist mentality that perpetuated destructive and exploitative practices for generations and continues to affect local communities.

Through this series, Ciarrocchi points to a cycle of infrastructure problems created by centuries of development and industrialization of the land. To learn from the past, Ciarrocchi acknowledges the need to enact change. One of the works on view, *Community Dreams for Water*, is made up of collected responses to a prompt from a participatory project in which the artist asks visitors to share their dreams about water. The excerpted statements record what a community envisions for a healthy environment. Ciarrocchi will continue to collect community water dreams throughout the exhibition.

Maya Ciarrocchi is an interdisciplinary artist working across drawing, printmaking, video and performance. She has exhibited nationally, internationally and in New York City venues, such as Abrons Arts Center, Anthology Film Archives, The Bronx Museum of the Arts, The Chocolate Factory, Equity Gallery, Kinescope Gallery, Microscope Gallery and Smack Mellon. Ciarrocchi earned an MFA from the School of Visual Arts and a BFA from SUNY Purchase.

PUBLIC PROGRAM: SAT, OCT 15, 1PM, *Meet the Artist*

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WAVE HILL
4900 Independence Avenue
(front entrance)
Bronx, NY 10471
718.549.3200
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