



New York Waterways

Susannah Ray

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- An exploration of life on and alongside New York City's waterways

New York City is defined by water, yet many of its shorelines are largely unknown. Photographer Susannah Ray spent more than two years exploring these shores and waterways that New Yorkers utilize year-round to fish, swim, sit and daydream. The resulting images, inspired by Walt Whitman's poetry, take us on a seasonal journey past sheltered bays, under great bridges and over deep rivers to give us a new perspective on a mega-city we thought we knew so well. In a city so often considered to be racing forward, Ray's work serves as a powerful reminder that the communal human connection to water is as present today as it always has been.

Susannah Ray lives in the Rockaways, a small peninsula on the edge of New York City bordered by the Atlantic Ocean, Jamaica Bay, and JFK International Airport. This intersection of city and water is at the heart of her photography and extends her early interest in landscape photography, which she uses as a form of visual geography, rendering the complex inter-relationships of place, history, and ideology. Born in 1972 in Washington, D.C., Susannah Ray studied photography at Princeton University and the School of Visual Arts MFA Program in Photography and Related Media. Susannah Ray is an Associate Professor of Photography at Hofstra University.