Rivers, Blocks, and Bridges to Newark Bay
Curated by Juno Zago

Exploring the spatial relationship between our experience in the built environment and its proximity to fresh water sources, Steve Rossi's Rivers, Blocks, and Bridges to Newark Bay references the street grid of Newark and the surrounding region combined with the paths of the Passaic and Hackensack Rivers as they join to form Newark Bay.

In the daylight, the painted sculptural relief is visible; at night, the LED lighting components provide a moving lighting animation, backlighting and complementing the sculptural form. A blueish lighting element provides a visceral connection to light reflecting on the surface of water. Subtly blinking yellow, white, and orange lights suggest light from street lamps and building windows experienced in the urban landscape at night.

Rivers, Blocks, and Bridges to Newark Bay is a sculptural and lighting installation created with addressable LED lights, Arduino computer boards, open source code written by Mark Kriegsman and Mary Corey March, and is supported by The City of Newark Creative Catalyst Fund in partnership with Newark Arts.

Mar 4 - May 6, 2023
Gallery Aferro Front Window Installation
73 Market Street, Newark

OPENING RECEPTION
March 4th, 2023
2pm - 5pm

GALLERY HOURS
Wednesday - Saturday
12pm - 6pm
and by appointment
Born into a family of makers, Steve Rossi developed an intense appreciation and respect for artistic craft and physical labor through growing up around family members making quilts, knitting blankets, fixing cars, building houses, and arranging flowers. He received his BFA from the Pratt Institute in 2000 and his MFA from the State University of New York at New Paltz in 2006.

His work has been exhibited at Dorsky Curatorial Projects, Eco Art Space, NURTUREart, the Open Engagement Conference at the Queens Museum, Bronx Art Space, the Wassaic Project, the John Michael Kohler Art Center, the Jules Collins Smith Museum of Fine Arts, and the public art festival Art in Odd Places, among many others. He has participated in artist residencies at the Vermont Studio Center, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council’s Arts Center Residency on Governors Island, and in 2022, he was awarded the Sustainable Arts Foundation Fellowship at Gallery Aferro in Newark, New Jersey.

As a part-time faculty member, he has taught in the First Year Program at Parsons School of Design, the Sculpture Program and Art Education Program at the State University of New York at New Paltz, and in the Art Department at Westchester Community College. He is currently an Assistant Professor and Sculpture Program Head at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia.