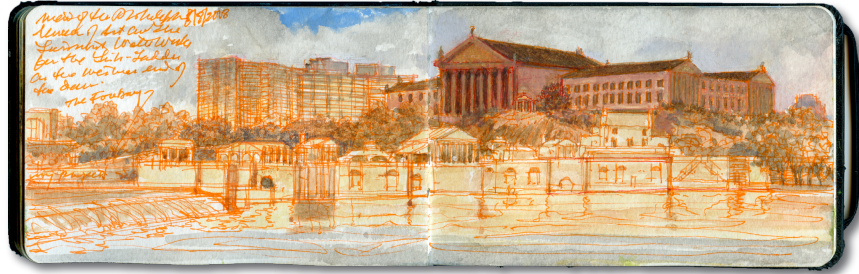


O.T.W.

On The Water: The Schuylkill River *by James Lancel McElhinney*



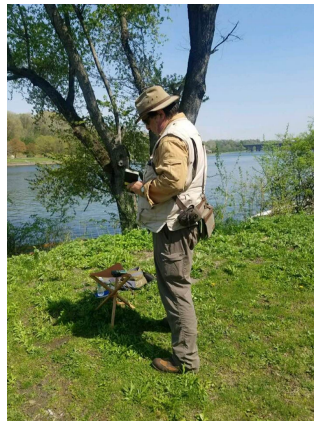
I have for many years used sketchbooks to capture/record places I have visited; like the explorers and traveler-artists of the 19th-century. Philadelphian friends encouraged me to explore The Schuylkill. Having been a local resident, the river at first seemed familiar. As work progressed, it became clear that I had much to learn.

From the start, this project kept evolving. On the water, and along its banks, I found other artists engaged with the river, its life, history, science, and literature. Some of these remarkable artists have graciously agreed to join me in inviting the visitor to explore Philadelphia's Hidden River, to discover its wonders anew, perhaps with a sketchbook in hand.

James Lancel McElhinney

Artist, author and historian, McElhinney was born and raised in the Delaware Valley. Holding degrees from Tyler School of Art and Yale University. Best known for his Hudson Valley journals, and paintings of historic battlegrounds, McElhinney received a Pollock Krasner Grant in 2017. Later that year he published Hudson Highlands: North River Suite Volume One, a suite of contemporary prints in the spirit of nineteenth-century topographical art.

His focus today is on American waterways. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, art-historian Dr. Katherine E. Manthorne.



River Artists

1. **Patrick Connors** looks to the Schuylkill as his muse, re-envisioning what he beholds, with a reverence for history and a timeless gaze.

Late Winter, Philadelphia & Reading Railroad Bridge, 14x18 inches [framed], oil on linen, 2017.

Artist Website: www.connorsfinearts.com

2. **Tom Judd** imagines In this cinematic freee-frame a Victorian woman in an antiquated bathing-costume, about to plunge into the river.

River Bank, 24x32 inches, Archival pigment print, 2018.

Artist Website: www.tomjuddart.com

3. In *Tide Field*, **Stacy Levy** anchored strands of brightly-colored buoys along the tidal Schuylkill River, which are submerged and exposed by the six-foot tide of the river.

Tide Field: Art on the Schuylkill, Documentary short on the site-specific installation, 2018.

Courtesy of Mural Arts Philadelphia.

Artist Website: www.stacylevy.com

4. **Deirdre Murphy** in *Mapping Movements*; an intaglio print mapping avian migration-routes along the urban fringe of the lower Schuylkill Valley.

Mapping Movements: The Invisible Highways of Urban Birds at the Waters' Edge.

Printed by C.R. Ettinger Studio. Etching and Chine Colle on Japanese Rice Paper. 14x60 inches, 2018.

Artist Website: www.deirdremurphyart.com

5. **Jacob Rivkin** compiled *Floating Archives*, a series of animations based on archival photographs and drawings, reimagining the waterway from 1800 to today.

Floating Archives, Hand-drawn digital animation, field recordings, 6:00 minutes, 2018

Artist Website: www.jarivkin.com

6. **Joseph Sweeney** shows rowers out on the river, just as sunlight breaks the horizon. Oarsmen's jerseys contrast with the shadowy backdrop of the wooded far bank.

Light into Shadow, Color copper plate Etching, 20x 23 inches, 1985.

Artist Website: www.joesweeneyart.com

Historic Images

- A. *The Colossus Bridge over the Schuylkill River in the City of Philadelphia*. Steel engraving by J.G. Martini, Rudolstadt, Thurginia, Germany. Publisher: Figentum. 1833.
- B. *Scene on the Schuylkill*. Edmund Darch Lewis (1835-1910). Steel engraving by P. Seleé.
- C. *Philadelphia from Belmont (West Park)*. Granville Perkins (1830-1895). Engraved by R. Hinshelwood. *Williams, W. Appleton's Handbook of American Travel: Northern and Eastern Tour*. New York. 1870

O.T.W. – On The Water: The Schuylkill River Contributors

Virginia S. Baltzell

Bartram's Garden National Historic Landmark

Richard B. Baxter, Jr.

Hanley and Isabelle Bodek

Brilliant Graphics

Dotty Brown

Gardner Cadwalader

John Chatzky

Clinton Corbett

Julie Courtney

Andrew Drabkin

Cindi Royce Ettinger

Mollie Bolger Jensen

Robert Johnson

Gerald Lawrence

Adam Levine

Elizabeth Lindsay

Cynthia MacLeod

Dr. Lawrence Miller

Mural Arts Philadelphia

Ralph Nagel

Jim and Mary Purtill

Sid Sachs

Janet Wilson Smith

Joseph Sweeney

George Ellsworth Turnbull

Bob Tursack

Andrew Webste

Looking South From Below The Connecting Railway Bridge

Facing northwest, sheltered by the arches of the Pennsylvania Railroad Connecting Bridge on a rainy day. Kelly Drive is to the right. A bike-trail runs beside it. Schuylkill Expressway roars behind the western bank, MILK Drive and Dragon-Boat dock, on the wooded shore beyond. A solitary rower moves downstream.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Lone Oarsman Passing Three Angel

Standing on the western shore of the river below the Dragon Boat Dock, looking southwest. Imagine being in the middle of the river, where Thomas Eakins envisioned Max Schmitt, at rest in his single scull. Passing Three Angels, a lone oarsman pulls downriver toward stone arches, the Connecting Railway Bridge.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Looking South From Three Angel

A broad esplanade on the eastern bank was created when landfill replaced pestilential wetlands. A grove of cherry trees was created from a gift to the city by Japan, honoring the sesquicentennial of American independence. Rising behind the Connecting Railway Bridge is the distant form of the Comcast Technology Center.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Sunset: Columbia Railroad Bridge

Getting on the water before work marks a tradition dating from the nineteenth century. Social diversity is an enduring trait of amateur competitive rowing. CEOs and plumbers, men and women, young and old. Mind, body, time, and the river, all become one, in greeting the day or bidding it farewell.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Looking Downstream To Columbia Railroad Bridge

Marking a point halfway between Philadelphia Museum of Art and East Falls, Columbia Railroad Bridge was constructed in 1920. A grandstand for watching Schuylkill Navy regattas sits just upstream. Behind the distant tree-line is Memorial Hall. Built for the 1876 Centennial Exposition, it now houses The Please Touch Museum.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Below Strawberry Mansion Bridge

Built in 1897, filigree steel arches soar above the river, connecting the eastern and western sections of Fairmount Park. Competing crews assemble upstream at a chain of pontoon boats. The race begins. Passing under the bridge, slender hulls glide upon the water on their way downstream to the finish line.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

Twin Stone

Known to rowers as “Twin Stone”, for many these bridges mark the northern limit of their range. Submerged rocks bid a cool welcome, yet some venture upstream, to enjoy the calm waters below Manayunk. While I painted this scene, three snapping-turtles appeared offshore, in a patch of bright sunlight.

Archival pigment print produced by Brilliant Graphics, Exton Pennsylvania

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Video animation by Graham White, Digital Media Design. Simsbury, CT., for Needlewatcher Editions. New York. 2018.

Website: www.gwhite.us