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Media Advisory: New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canal Museum to Host Erie Canal Artists-in-Residence Presentation

Virtual Event will Showcase Work of 2023 Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence Matthew López-Jensen

2024 Erie Canal Artists-in-Residence to be Introduced

The New York State Canal Corporation and the [Erie Canal Museum](#) will host a virtual Erie Canal Artists-in-Residence Presentation with 2023 Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence Matthew López-Jensen and the new 2024 Erie Canal Artists-in-Residence on **Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.**

As the inaugural Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence, López-Jensen, spent a year documenting maintenance work along the New York State Canal system through an artistic lens. López-Jensen engaged Canal Corporation employees to learn – in their own words – about some of the more challenging or less recognized tasks they do to ensure the 100-year-old Canal infrastructure remains in safe operation. Additionally, López-Jensen documented his visits to each lock, lift bridge, and many historical and natural landmarks along the 524-mile waterway on his Instagram channel [@all524miles](#).

An exhibit of López-Jensen's work will be on display at the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse from late January through April 2024.

During the presentation, New York State based photographers Clara Riedlinger, Alon Koppel, and Judit German-Heins will be introduced as the 2024 Erie Canal Artists-in-Residence. Riedlinger will focus her residency work on the spiritual history of the Western New York landscape known as the *Burned Over District* – where the dramatic reshaping of the landscape by the Erie Canal signaled a new era of religious strangeness, philosophical experimentation, and political reinvention whose currents still flow strongly just under the surface of present-day American culture. Koppel's work will focus on researching historic canal images and then rephotographing the same locations now, reflecting on how the landscape and built environment have changed near the canal. German-Heins will spend the year photographing women in Upstate New York whose work is related to the Erie Canal. Her work will pay tribute to women workers during the

Canal's construction and to those who fought for women's rights starting from the Seneca Falls Convention in 1848.

To register for the free public presentation, please visit: www.eriecanalmuseum.org

The Erie Canal Artist-in-Residence program was created through a partnership between the New York State Canal Corporation and the Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse. The Canal Corporation and the Erie Canal Museum have previously partnered on a two-year Erie Canal Fellowship to tell a more inclusive history of the Canal, and on a series of tours of iconic Canal infrastructure.

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About the New York State Canal Corporation

New York's Canal system includes four canals: the Erie, Champlain, Oswego, and Cayuga–Seneca. Spanning 524 miles, the waterway links the Hudson River with the Great Lakes, the Finger Lakes and Lake Champlain. The canals form the backbone of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and connect hundreds of unique communities.

The New York State Canal Corporation is a subsidiary of the New York Power Authority.

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About the Erie Canal Museum

Located in Downtown Syracuse, NY since 1962, the Erie Canal Museum engages the public in the story of the Erie Canal's transformative impacts on peoples and places in the past, present, and future. We are stewards and interpreters of Erie Canal related materials and heritage. The Museum is open daily from 10 AM – 4 PM and offers exhibits with interactive displays and original artifacts, and engaging programs.

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