

colour palette

A Lake Story by Melissa McGill

Melissa McGill has developed this site-specific natural colour story in collaboration with Jason Logan of the Toronto Ink Company. Together, they gathered and worked with natural and found material from the waters and shoreline to collaborate with the creative expression of the lake itself. Featuring materials such as clay, red brick, and wild grape sourced from Leslie Street Spit, Gibraltar Point, and the re-naturalized Don River among others, these colours have been used to create vibrant wind-activated colour field paintings that will dance above the canoe procession; communicating Lake Ontario's vibrant resilience both above and below its waters.

Explore this legend to learn more about some of the natural dyes and ingredients that inform the palette of *A Lake Story*. See if you can spot them during the performance!



Water from Sunfish Cut, tansy, goldenrod and yellow flowers from Leslie Street Spit and the Humber River



Water from Sugar Beach, Russian olive from the edge of the QEW, willow from the West Toronto Railpath



Water from the Don River, red pine bark and sumac from the edge of glacial Lake Iroquois



Water, algae and fallen willow from Ward's Island



Water from the Rouge River and wild grape from the buried Garrison Creek



Water, wild rose petals, hips and dogwood bark from Leslie Street Spit



Water, copper pipe and yarrow from the Leslie Street Spit, crab apple from the Humber River Valley and salt



Water from Trillium Park, nettles from Heath Street Ravine, lake clay from the bottom of Lake Ontario



Water from Budapest Park, elderberry from buried Mud Creek, mulberry from buried Denison Creek



Water from Cherry Beach, campfire wood char and tree gum



Water from Sugar Beach, Russian olive from the edge of the QEW, willow from the West Toronto Railpath



Water and red brick from Leslie Street Spit and Lavender Creek biogenic ochre



Water from mouth of the Don River, roasted chicory root along the hidden Garrison Creek



Water from the Humber River, iron railroad spike rust and metal salts



Water from the Don River, acorns from Toronto's Oak savannah and ravines, bed spring iron water from Leslie Street Spit



Water from Gibraltar Point and yellow brick from Leslie Street Spit



Water from Bathurst Quay, and fallen black walnut from buried Taddle Creek