



*Essential Shore / Permeable Future* is a public art exhibition at Stand4 Gallery and sites throughout Bay Ridge, curated by Jennifer McGregor. It brings together over a dozen New York artists for free programs and artworks that explore our relationship to water and the Narrows shoreline through an environmental lens.

***Participating artists:***

Cynthia Alberto, Graciela Cassel, Emilie Clark, Betsy Damon, Thomas Gallagher, Clarinda Mac Low / Carolyn Hall (Sunk Shore), Jan Mun, Valerie Tevere / Angel Nevarez, Seema Lisa Pandya, Nicole Peyrafitte, Ana Bessie Ratner (The Other Almanac), Hannah Salyer, and Brooke Singer.

Nicole Peyrafitte's Installation:

***Amor de Lonh, Calidris Maritima***

(Love from Afar, Purple Sandpiper)

2 pastel paintings / 3 photographs / 1 short film

For several years, I have been documenting the Purple Sandpiper (*Calidris maritima*), a migratory, medium-sized shorebird that winters along the Shore Promenade in Bay Ridge, right by the Belt Parkway. These resilient birds arrive from the high Arctic breeding grounds of Northern Canada in late November or early December and remain with us until May, thriving in rugged, wave-battered environments that many others avoid.

This work is meant to offer an immersive way for people to notice the quiet beauty of these often-overlooked visitors. For this installation, I'm showing two pastel paintings, three photographs, and a short film—all made between December 2024 and March 2025, along the Bay Ridge shoreline, which also includes a poem I wrote in response to their presence.

### Paintings:



*Calidris Maritima White* (2025)  
21" x 30" inch - Paper/Pastels



*Calidris Maritima Black* (2025)  
18" x 24" - Paper/Pastels

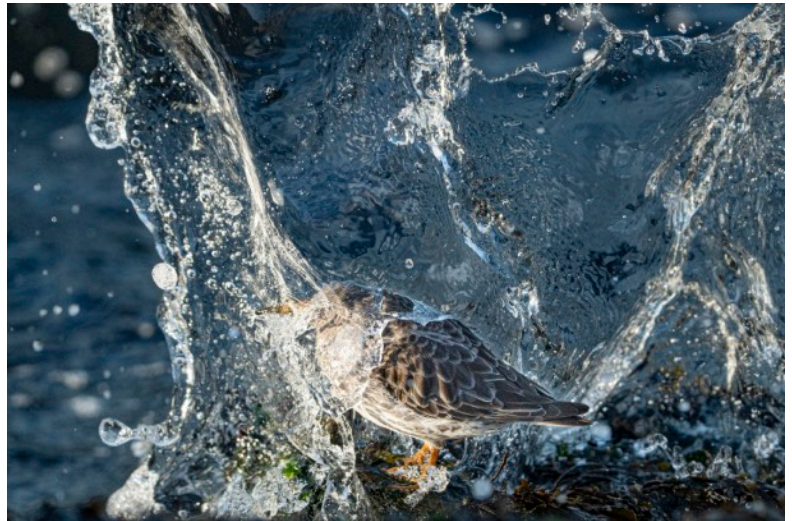


## Photographs:

All photographs are printed on Hahnemuhle photo rag bright & finished with a hand-torn deckled edge.



*Purple Sandpiper looking up*  
8"x 12"



*Purple Sandpiper underwater*  
8"x12"



*Purple Sandpiper foraging*  
8"x 8"

## Film:

04:29: All footage shot on the Shores of Bayridge between December 2024 & March 2025



View of the Installation at the gallery:





# Notes on Purple Sandpipers

By Nicole Peyrafitte



**T**he *Calidris maritima* are back foraging on Shore Promenade's slippery green rocks. Our holartic winter residents have returned from their Arctic tundra breeding grounds. *Les bécasseaux violets*, s'il-vous-plaît! are bi-continental, yes! They can be found on both shores of the Atlantic, from Greenland and Iceland to northern Spain and infrequently in North Africa. In my birth country, France, they winter along the coasts from Dunkirk to Biarritz and on our American coasts their wintering extends to Maryland. How smart of them to avoid all the tourist traffic! Dedicated couples they are, with very little extra-pair copulation, as some DNA studies have confirmed their essential monogamy. Voilà!

One more important thing: the sandpipers are in the Scolopacidae family, dating from as early as the Early Oligocene period, around 30 million years ago. Native populations dwelled on this land for thousands of years before the first colonist reached these shores less than 500 years ago. Except for a few occurrences,

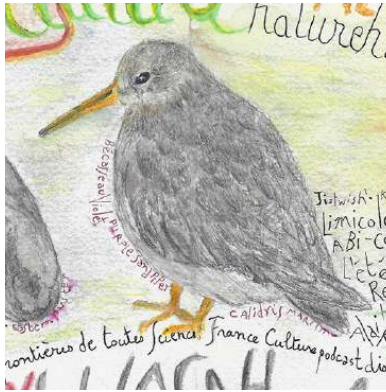
their native names are hard to find. After several days of online research and contacting various cultural outfits, here are the names I came up with for sandpiper—more need to be recovered. If you have any sources please contact me at [np@nicolepeyrafitte.com](mailto:np@nicolepeyrafitte.com).

*Lekau* in Lenape. This is by deduction, as I found that the totem of the Boy Scout Lekau Lodge, chartered in 1935 in the Camden County Council located in West Collingswood, New Jersey, was the sandpiper<sup>1</sup>. It makes sense since the Lenape-English dictionary gives the translation *lekau* to mean sand, gravel. *Ji-twish'-ki-wen* in Chippewa<sup>2</sup>. 🐾

<sup>1</sup> <https://oa-bsa.org/article/news-you-can-use-history-behind-merger-lenape-lodges-ancestral-tree>

<sup>2</sup> *Bird Nomenclature of the Chippewa Indians*. Author(s): W. W. Cooke. Source: *The Auk*, July, 1884, Vol. 1, No. 3, pp. 242-250. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/pdf/4066840.pdf>





Excerpt of field journal and photos of Purple Sandpipers at Shore Promenade. All work by Nicole Peyrafitte.