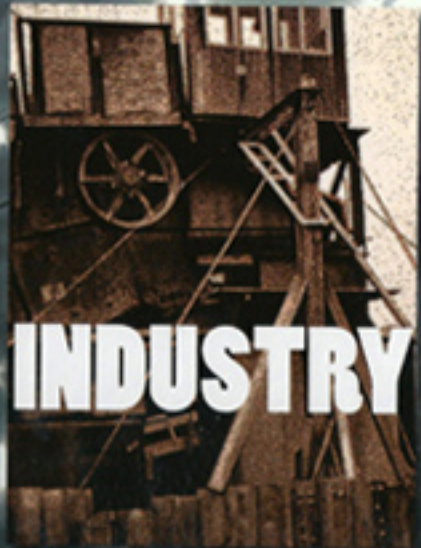


# THE GLORY OF BROOKLYN'S GOWANUS



*LESLIE-ARLETTE BOYCE AND BRIAN MERLIS*

## ELIZABETH O'REILLY

I HAVE BEEN A BIT OF A FAN of Elizabeth O'Reilly's since I began work on this project about ten years ago. I made a number of visits to Elizabeth's open studio. Always, I managed to arrive just moments after she had stepped out for a bit of air.

Elizabeth O'Reilly and I met face to face for the first time on February 13, 2011.

Elizabeth first set up shop at 534 Union Street twenty years ago. This extremely talented painter from Ireland has become a well-recognized presence along the canal.



Irish-born, but Brooklyn-based since '86, Elizabeth O'Reilly received her B.Ed from The National University of Ireland, and an MFA from Brooklyn College, New York. A committed on-site painter, her work is primarily based on the Gowanus Canal area of Brooklyn where she has had a studio for 20 years. O'Reilly seeks out locations where grace is not always in the obvious places: sites where nature and vestiges of

human presence intertwine. The watery stillness of her cityscapes is inspired by the canal, a place caught between use and abandonment. Capturing something evocative in the emptiness, she is inspired by the play of man-made colors against the softer colors of the natural world.

O'Reilly has participated in numerous residencies in the US and Ireland, and has received many awards including a Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant. A documentary on her work, *Ealaíontóir Thar Saille*, (An Artist Abroad) was shown on network TV in Ireland. O'Reilly shows her work in the US and internationally and at the George Billis Gallery in Chelsea, New York, where she has had seven solo exhibitions.

Ms. O'Reilly's work is found in many corporate and public collections, including the State Department, Washington D.C., the State Collection Ireland, and the Memphis Brooks Museum in Memphis, Tennessee.



UNION ST. BRIDGE

12" x 12" Watercolor



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**NIGHT LIGHTS AT THIRD ST.**

11 3/4" Oil on Panel



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**ROCK CRUSHER AND SILOS**

9 3/4" x 31 3/4" Oil on Panel