

TORONTO BIENNIAL OF ART

Maria Thereza Alves born in São Paulo, Brazil;
lives in Naples, Italy and Berlin, Germany

Works :

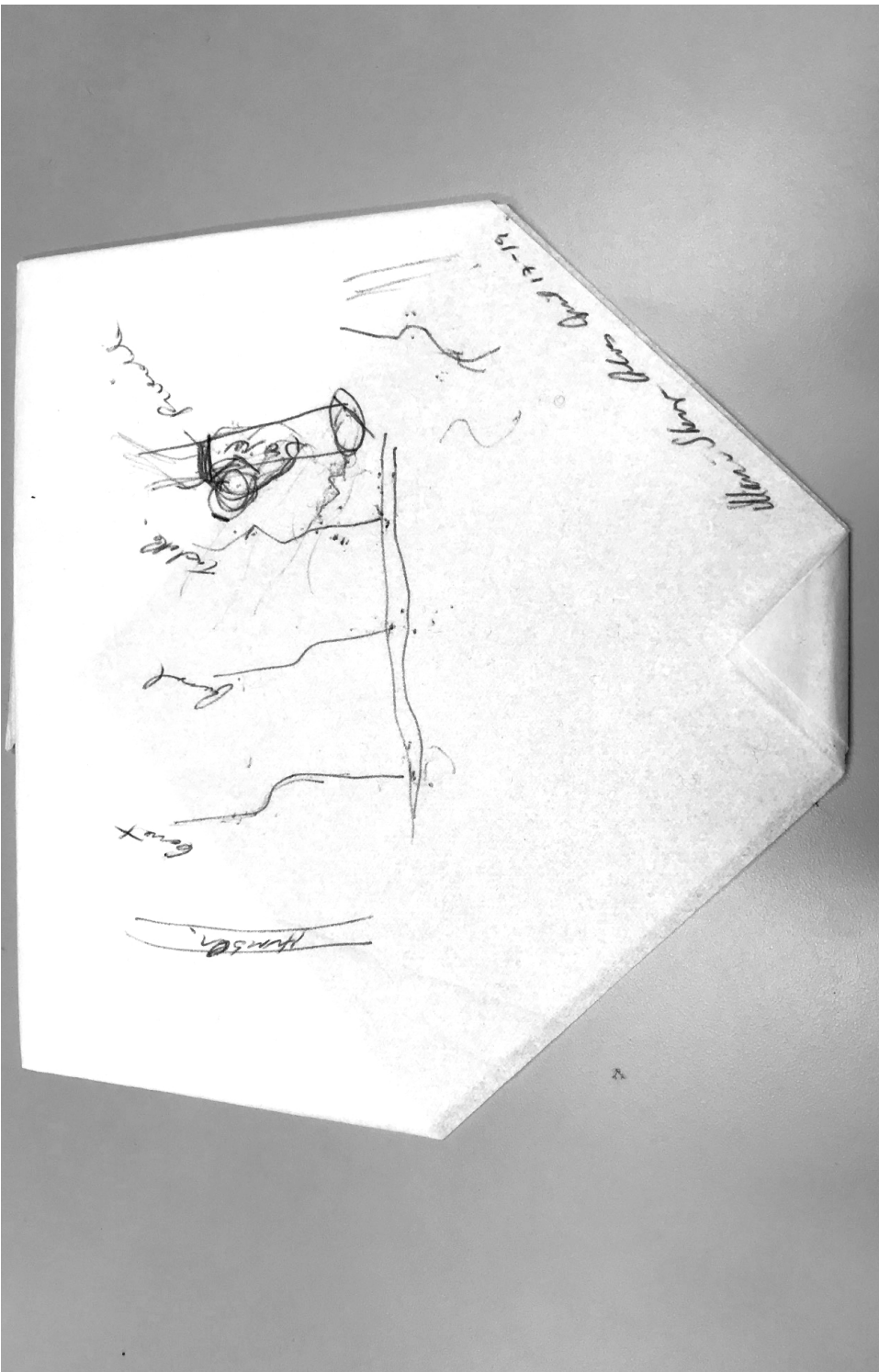
Phantom Pain, 2019, Polished Steel

Toronto Biennial of Art
Tools for Learning
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Keywords and Connections

minimal, public art, site-specific, waterways,
excavation, memory, pollution, urban
development



Questions and Conversation Starters

Why are rivers important for cities?

What is the closest river to you?

Do you know where it comes from and where it goes?

Could you imagine changing the direction of the water's flow? What effects might this have on those living in it and around it?

Can you find anything floating along the water? What sorts of things?

Discuss what impact the development of new buildings or areas can have on waterways.

Maria Thereza Alves, *Remember, the Rivers Are Here*, 2019. Pen on napkin, Image courtesy the artist.

Project description:

At 259 Lake Shore, excavated soil from Bickford Park accumulates in this exhibition site as part of Maria Thereza Alves's participatory project, enacting a communal unearthing of one of Toronto's lost rivers: Garrison Creek. The Garrison Creek Ravine was covered over by infill from residential development, but along the southern edge of the park the parapet of the former Harbord Street Bridge remains visible.

And at Riverdale Park West, Alves's sculpture traces the former curving path of the Don River, straightened in the 1880s to open and speed the flow of polluted waters as part of the City of Toronto's Don River Improvement Plan. *Phantom Pain* makes visible the complicated and often buried histories of Toronto's watersheds.

Location:

Riverdale Park West, 259 Lake Shore Boulevard East

Tool: Water Route

Find a river, creek, or waterway near you.
Take a pencil and paper with you and follow the water's path with care.
Trace your route on the paper as you go, making note of any observations or obstacles.
Share your route and notes with someone else.
Can you help them follow the water's path?