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
torontobiennial.org
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.
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