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Recycled Steel Gives a Nod to the Old Tappan Zee

by Michelle Falkenstein

It took three years and an estimated 47,000 tons of steel to construct the Tappan Zee Bridge, which opened to the public on Dec. 14, 1995. According to historical sources, due to a steel shortage caused by the Korean War, the bridge was designed with a limitation that made it unable to transfer its weight in the event one of its supports failed. Meaning: its days were numbered as soon as it opened.

In 2019, after 82 years of service (12 years longer than its life expectancy), the Tappan Zee's eastern half was demolished, and the western half was lowered and carted away on a barge. But while the bridge is no more, a small percentage of its steel has been used in the sculptures being installed around its replacement, the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Artists submitting project ideas for the new bridge's art program were encouraged to incorporate steel from the old bridge, and three of the 10 commissioned artworks do just that.

"It was an interesting challenge, and it was great to be able to do it," says artist Thomas Lendvai, who normally works in wood. "It took me out of my comfort zone." His sculpture, *Untitled, For Imre Lendvai* (dedicated to his father) is made from 90% reclaimed Tappan Zee steel. It consists of seven graduated octagons, increasing from three feet to nine feet wide, slightly askew to each other, with congruent interior angle sides. The sculpture was fabricated in Mount Vernon and painted a terracotta red.

Lendvai, who has done large-scale work before but not public sculpture, says his piece was designed to put the viewer in mind of an echo or ripples on the water, a fitting concept considering its permanent home on the Westchester side of the Hudson River.

"Using bridge steel got me to think of the sculpture as being more like a skeletal form," he says, as well as giving him ideas for future projects. "It will be exciting to see what comes after this one."


Artist Cheryl Wing-Z Wong's sculpture, *Current*, also contains Tappan Zee reclaimed steel, both in its base and at the top of its 12 arches, which range in size from four-feet six-inches to 12 feet.

"For me, this deliberate material choice was a way to pay homage to the legacy of the old bridge through these artifacts as preserved memories of the industrial past, while uniting this with other tech-forward materials," says Wong, whose piece includes light animations and responsive LED illumination. Wong's piece can be found at the bridge's Westchester Landing.

Artist Fitzhugh Karol says you can still see stamps from Bethlehem Steel on the old bridge plates that make up his sculpture, *Approach*, as well as dings from more than six decades of hard use, but that's just fine with him.

So are the pieces of reclaimed steel with capsule-shaped holes carved into them, which he alternated with solid planks in his work. "I designed it as a solid form at first," Karol says, "but when I saw the perforated planks, I decided to use different types of steel in the best way for the form."

Karol's sculpture also contains pieces of the new bridge. While touring a temporary exhibit designed to illuminate its construction, Karol noticed two large steel rings on display. He asked the show's organizers if he could have them for his piece, and the response was immediate. "They took them out and said great," he recalls, and they are now part of *Approach*. See it on the Rockland side of the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.



(photo credit: Margaret Fox)

Untitled, For Imre Lendvai
Thomas Lendvai
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virtual activities



A live stream concert with Calidore String Quartet, Carosom Center for Music and the Arts. 7/18 (photo credit: Michael Herzhowitz)

Alliance Française de Westchester offers a selection of *French summer camps and intensive online classes for children, teens and adults who want to improve their French.*

- *Virtual Cooking Workshop for Children*: July 1 at 10:30am
- *Online Celebration of Bastille Day*: July 14 at 8pm

Art Stages presents online adult and children's classes, live-streamed concerts, open mic night sessions and summer camps both on-site and online classes in Acting Technique, Choreography, Music and Vocal Technique, and more. artstages.org/connections

- *SummerStage Camp*: On site from July 6-August 16 at 9am-3pm and Online from July 6-17 at 9:30-11:30am via Zoom

Arts and Culture Committee for Town of Greenburgh presents *The Kids Short Story Connection*, a two-hour workshop series for kids who love to write. The workshops will be held on Saturdays from July 11-August 1 at 10am via Zoom.

ARTS 18566 provides fun and enriching instructional lesson-based activities through its new interactive platform, available for students, parents and the community. New classes are posted every Monday at 3pm. To learn more, [click here](https://www.arts18566.com).

ArtsWestchester is providing weekly social media activities, such as Art of the Week assignments every Monday, virtual *ArtsMobile* activities, *Teen Tuesdays* and *Thursday programs* and more. facebook.com/artswestchester and instagram.com/artswestchester

- *Lawrence Salley Photography Award and Virtual Exhibition*: On view now

The Bedford Playhouse's "Virtual Playhouse" and "Culture at Home" bring a selection of interactive programs, from comedies to environmental documentaries, author talks, weekly trivia for kids and more. For a full list of current programs, [click here](https://www.bedfordplayhouse.org) and visit

facebook.com/bedfordplayhouse and instagram.com/bedfordplayhouse

- *Galaxy Quest Zoom Conversation*: July 2 at 7:30pm
- *COVID: The Mental Health Crisis*: A Talk with Andrew Solomon: July 7 at 8pm
- *Drive-in Movies* (in partnership with John Jay Homestead): July 10-11 & August 7-8

Blue Door Art Center's *Shattered: Glassworks* exhibition is available online. The center will also host a series of free *art workshops for kids and writing workshops for adults* on Saturdays via Zoom.

Broadway Training Center offers week-long virtual summer camp sessions via Zoom for the month of July, and 2-week camp sessions in August that will either be via Zoom, or a blended mix of Zoom and in-person, if safety guidelines permit.

Carosom Center for Music and the Arts offers a variety of music and family programs. Audiences can enjoy new live-streamed concerts and past performances by world-renowned artists on youtube.com/carosomcenter.

- Listening to Tom-Tom (streamed): July 9, 7pm
- Decoda (streamed): July 12, 3pm
- Calidore String Quartet (streamed): July 16, 7pm
- Chris Thile (live): July 16, 7pm
- Musicians from The Knights (streamed): July 23, 7pm
- Rachael & Viray (live): July 25, 7pm

Center for the Digital Arts, Peekskill will host all summer classes online and via remote learning. The Center's *Youth Arts Technology program* is an online STEAM program focused on engaging youth in arts technology integration. [Click here to register for Summer classes.](https://www.centerfordigitalarts.org)

Clay Art Center presents virtual classes for adults and kids, as well as artist lectures and demonstrations. The Center's *Connections*, a virtual exhibition of postcards that document ceramic artists' experiences during this time of social distancing, will be on view through July 15.

- Pottery for Beginners with Logan Wall: Thursdays through July 9 at 10am

Concordia Conservatory's Summer Program is a four-week virtual summer camp program held through July 24. For more info, [click here](https://www.concordiaconservatory.org).

Copland House is posting videos of past performances through its "Coping...with Copland House" series. coplandhouse.org/coping

Dance Cavise offers a *Summer Dance Program* with beginner, intermediate and advanced dance intensive level Zoom classes from July 6-31, as well as a *Broadway Master Class Series* on Fridays from July 10-31 at 10am-12pm. dancecavise.com

Downtown Music has been posting video excerpts from past concerts each Wednesday on their Facebook page. facebook.com/dmusicgrace

Emelin Theatre's Virtual Screen Room streams the best in independent, international and documentary film for the price of a movie ticket. For the complete list of offerings, [click here](https://www.emelintheatre.org). More streaming opportunities are available on [Facebook](https://facebook.com/emelintheatre).

Hammond Museum presents monthly *virtual exhibitions*. An artist reception is broadcast live on the first Saturday of each month. For a complete list of programs and workshops, visit hammondmuseum.org.

Harrison Public Library is offering suggestions on its website for what to read, watch, listen to and learn, as well as *virtual workshops* for teens and adults via Zoom, online book clubs, yoga classes for adults and more. For a complete list of programs, virtual classes and workshops, visit harrisonpl.org/events/harrison

- *Sur-Fis Elements X3* virtual exhibition: July 1-31

Historic Hudson Valley offers digital content on its website, including home craft videos like tin-smithing and its *People Not Property* interactive documentary about the history of Northern colonial enslavement through the personal stories of enslaved people. hudsonvalley.org/article/history-at-your-fingertips/

Hoff-Barthelson Music School presents an *Online Summer Arts Program* for grades 1-12, which will offer students the opportunity to grow in their enjoyment and practice of music. The school will also offer a new online *Summer Early Childhood Music* and *First Instrument program* for children and families on July 6, July 20 and August 3. homs.org



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-Sherry Mayo, Director, Center for the Digital Arts Westchester Community College

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ISSUE	Reservation Deadline	Content Deadline
February	January 8, 2021	January 15, 2021
March	February 5, 2021	February 12, 2021
April	March 5, 2021	March 12, 2021
May	April 9, 2021	April 16, 2021
June	May 7, 2021	May 14, 2021
July/August	June 4, 2021	June 11, 2021
September	August 6, 2021	August 13, 2021
October	September 3, 2021	September 10, 2021
November	October 8, 2021	October 15, 2021
December/January 2022	November 5, 2021	November 12, 2021

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- Send *ArtsNews* ad file, vector version (.AI or .EPS) of logo and *Arts(e)News* skyscraper ad file by the content deadline to: artswnews@artswestchester.org