

## THE RESPONSE: ECHOES BENEATH THE RAIN

### WELCOME: CURATOR'S NOTE

In “Echoes Beneath the Rain,” artist and composer Olive Toran, charts a sonic geography of weather and witness—where storms are not just events, but entities. Here, the rain and wind are the great observers, and we are in dialogue with them.

This immersive sonic installation unfolds in three continuous movements—Before, During, and After the Storm—looped to reflect the rhythms of nature and collective response. Original compositions by the artists Olive, Natie, and Brittany blend with field recordings of storms and waterways captured by Olive Toran, layered with the voices and memories of the Rainproof NYC community.

As you move through the space, the soundscape shifts: ambient tones swell into turbulence, voices emerge and recede, and silence becomes its own kind of presence. This is a space of listening, not only to each other but to the elements themselves.

Echoes Beneath the Rain invites us to hear storms not only as forces, but as witnesses—asking what we learn when we treat weather as a partner, not just a condition.

The water is rising. So is our response.

~Olive Toran, Curator

### MEET THE ARTISTS



Olive Toran  
Guitar; Curator  
[olivetoran.com](http://olivetoran.com)



Natie  
Violin  
[natiemusic.com](http://natiemusic.com)



Brittany Harris  
Cello; Bass  
[brittanyharrismusic.com](http://brittanyharrismusic.com)

### ENGAGING WITH THE EXHIBIT

*Echoes Beneath the Rain* is both a listening experience and a call to sustain the work it amplifies. The exhibit seeks to:

- Showcase the ongoing work of Rainproof NYC and allied initiatives (tabling at the end of the performance)
- Build long-term capacity for creative, community-led climate action

We’ve curated the exhibit as an open-format, immersive experience. There is no fixed start or end point. Instead, we invite you to move freely during the three sonic movements of “Before,” “During,” and “After the Storm.”

Feel free to arrive, listen, reflect, and return as the storm cycles on.

### EXPLORE THE EXHIBIT FURTHER

SCAN THE QR OR  
VISIT [BIT.LY/ECHOESEVENT](http://BIT.LY/ECHOESEVENT) FOR:

- ARTIST INFO
- PROGRAM SCHEDULE
- GALLERY + IMAGE DETAILS
- RAINPROOF NYC RESOURCES
- & MORE!



SCAN ME

### MEET OUR RAINPROOF NYC COMMUNITY

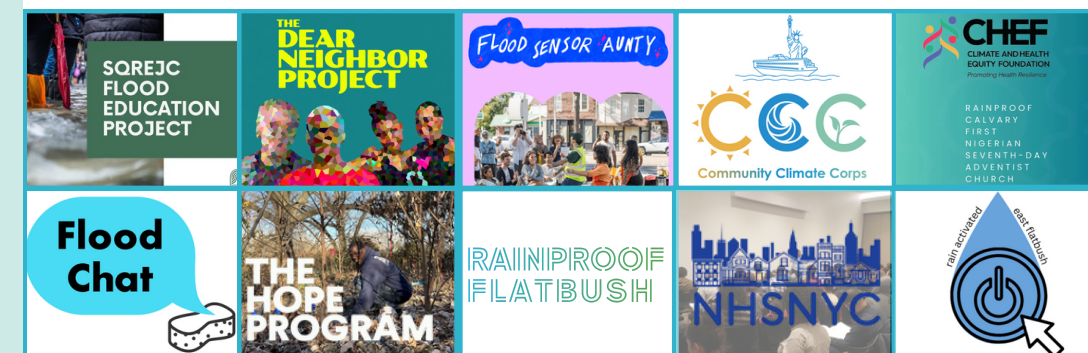
Rainproof NYC is a network of community members, technical experts, policy advocates, government partners, private sector firms, and educators united by our commitment to address the challenge of increasingly heavy rainfall and flooding in NYC. Born in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida in 2021, this movement began as collective of individuals, organizations, firms, and government agencies collaborating in working groups to develop recommendations to Rainproof NYC. To learn more, visit [bit.ly/rainproofingnyc](http://bit.ly/rainproofingnyc)

For the last year, Rebuild by Design’s Rainproof NYC has been working with 10 partner projects around NYC to support their ongoing or new projects that adopt and implement the recommendations and guiding principles from the Rainproof NYC Working Group process. Together, we are working to adapt Rainproof NYC’s citywide recommendations to localized action to mitigate the impacts of heavy rain. Today, stop by some of our partners’ tables and learn more about their projects and ways to get involved. Our goal is to provide a platform to raise visibility of the power of localized Rainproofing action across NYC to inspire attendees to connect, learn, and support leaders.

To learn more about their projects, visit [bit.ly/rainproofycn](http://bit.ly/rainproofycn)

RAINPROOF NYC

REBUILD  
BY  
DESIGN



# ECHOES BENEATH THE RAIN: DIVE INTO THE BEFORE, DURING, & AFTER



## Before the Storm

by Olive Toran

The day begins during an afternoon winter walk. Laughter soft, time slow. But in the distance, the air begins to shift. Clouds gather and gray. Birds arc low, restless. There is a tension just beneath the calm—something unspoken, arriving.

As you enter the space, let this moment guide you: the hush before disruption, the beauty before the break.

The image in this section was captured by Olive Toran during a winter walk in NYC on January 1, 2025.

**Scene:** The People’s toolkit and boxes  
The People’s Toolkit by Olive Toran is a community-driven initiative started in 2023, developed through participatory action research, and designed to spark conversation on resourcing communities to address flooding in NYC. More information at [olivetoran.com](http://olivetoran.com)

## During the Storm

Images provided by the Rainproof NYC Community; curated by Rifal Imam

This collage is built from community—literally. Every photo on this wall comes from Rainproof NYC partners, neighbors, and grassroots efforts across the city. Together, these fragments form a living archive of what it looks like to move through the storm.

"During the Storm" can mean the moment of rainfall, the flood, the surge, but it’s the actions, adaptations, and community emerging in response. It’s what happens when the waters rise and when communities rise with them.

By layering many perspectives into one visual field, this collage resists any single narrative of crisis. Instead, it shows what it means to act while in motion, to organize even amid uncertainty, and to lean into collective presence and mutual aid. You’ll see education sessions, fieldwork, sidewalk canvassing, rain-activated art, emergency planning, joy, protest, and gathering.

### We invite you to reflect:

- What does your “during the storm” look like?
- What does it mean to act while the storm is still unfolding?
- What can we learn from each other when we step outside our silos?

This is a call to look around and ask: *How do we move through storms, together?*



## After the Storm

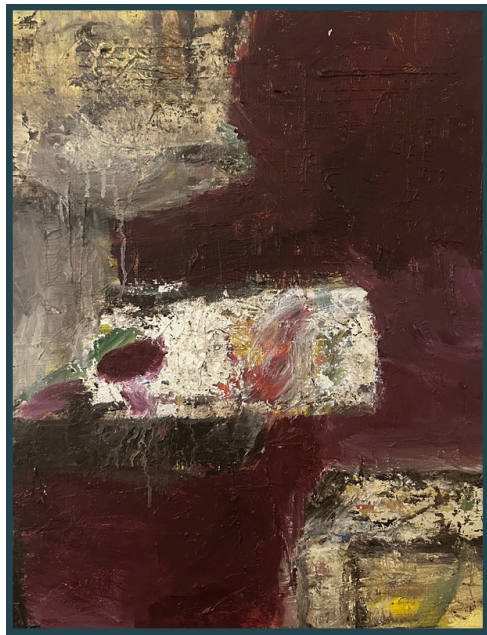
REFLECT	PREPARE	IMAGINE
1. What reflections or ideas did this immersive listening experience bring up about your/ your community's preparedness for rain?	3. How do we work together? What steps do we need to take today to prepare?	2. Imagine it's 2050. Flooding is no longer an issue. What does this look like in your community?

### Interactive Speculative Reflection

Led by Joie Zhang

*What does a future for your community look like without flooding?*

After the Storm is an interactive discussion exploring reflections on the “Echoes Beneath the Rain” exhibit. Join us to reflect on the lessons learned and imagine how we can rainproof our communities for the future.



### Nach dem Sturm

Acrylic painting by Marie Amoyi

German-Togolese artist currently based in New York. Marie’s work explores texture, emotion, and colored fluidity through abstract forms - capturing fleeting moods, and intuitive movement.

Marie’s acrylic painting reflects the aftermath of a flood – a landscape marked by destruction and disarray. Through layered textures and contrasting colors, it captures the way materials are forced together by rising water, leaving behind a dense, unsettling trace of what was once whole.